



A Service of Worship
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Variations on "How Firm a Foundation"* Janet Linker
 III. Trumpet Tune

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

Introit *Variations on "How Firm a Foundation"* Janet Linker
 II. Pastorale

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 19:7-10)

One: The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul.

**All: The decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple.**

One: The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart.

**All: The commandment of the Lord is clear,
shedding light on our way.**

One: Reverence for the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

**All: The commands of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**

One: More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold.

**All: They are sweeter than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

One: Let us worship God!

Hymn 4**Holy God, We Praise Your Name***

GROSSER GOTT

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

God of wisdom, you have given us your Word to guide, teach, and correct us, yet we do not always listen. We follow other voices, ignore what challenges us, and fail to live with grace and love. Forgive us. Breathe new life into us, open our hearts, and guide our steps by the light of your Word. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rebecca Guzman

One: God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

All: God's grace leads us out of darkness and into new life.

One: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and equipped for every good work.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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. **Find your Bible:** If you already know where it is, take it out and spend a few minutes looking through it. Notice how it is divided into books, chapters, and verses. If you do not have a Bible or are ready for a new one, you can read [my recommendations](#) for choosing a great children's Bible!
2. **Learn the books of the Bible:** Music is one of the easiest ways to remember them! Listen to [this song](#) and try singing along. You could also use a bookmark, make flashcards, or practice writing the books in order. Spend just a few minutes each day, and you may be surprised by how quickly you learn them!
3. **Build your foundation:** A house needs a strong foundation, and the Bible is an important part of our faith foundation. On the foundation piece from your kit, write or draw other things that keep you grounded in faith, such as prayer, worship, service, creation, or your community of faith. Add the piece to your house at the end.
4. **Wonder together:**
 - a. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, a younger church leader. Why do you think Paul reminded Timothy that scripture could teach, guide, and prepare him?
 - b. If someone had never read the Bible before, which Bible story would you want to share with them? Why?
 - c. Bible study guide is included in this week's Coming Home materials. How could you make reading and studying the Bible a regular practice? Choose a specific time and place to begin.



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. Lindsey Odom

First Reading

Psalm 119:97-105

Rev. Odom

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Anthem

Beside a Stream of Living Water

Thomas Keesecker

Summer Singers; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*Beside a stream of living water stands a tree of God's blest people,
Its roots run deep from those before us. By grace, it grows by grace,
The love of God abounding.*

*So many rings, a living history, some are thin from years of struggle,
Some circle wide from times of plenty. By grace, it grows by grace,
The love of God abounding.*

*The branches soar beyond the steeple, leaves as varied as its people;
So many gifts and yet one body. By grace, it grows by grace,
The love of God abounding.*

*O tree of life, O tree of glory, may our witness tell God's story
For all who follow in the future. By grace, it grows by grace,
The love of God abounding.*

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Dr. Hull

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

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

Sermon

"Inspired and Useful"

Dr. Hull

***Hymn 458**

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my
 path. Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a
 light un-to my path. When I feel a-fraid, and I
 think I've lost my way, still you're there right be - side me.
 Noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.
 Please be near me to the end.

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

A Brief Statement of Faith

Rev. Melissa White

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. White

. . . (*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. White

Offertory

Variations on "How Firm a Foundation"
VIII. Reverie

Janet Linker

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**

**God of every good gift, receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude.
Use them, and use us, to share your love, serve our neighbors, and bring
light to the world. Amen.**

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 463**

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 765

(first time: choir; second time: all)

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
 ¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
 cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
 nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
 O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
 Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

Postlude

Variations on "How Firm a Foundation"

Janet Linker

IX. Finale

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

Summer Singers; Blythe Kinsey, piano

A/V Team: Dylan Booker, Chris Wilcox

Ushers: Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Phil Eatherton, Andrew Gaul, Bjorn Hansen, Jim Williams

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Jane Klecker, Tom Klecker

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 15, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Ralph Royster, Derek and Leanne Royster and the entire Royster family, as Ralph's wife, Barbara "Bobbi" Royster, entered the Church triumphant on July 13.
- 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.
- 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

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sandy@smpchome.org

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Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: Closed

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
JULY 19

SMPC Summer Singers **Ages 6th Grade through Adult**

We are so excited to have our SMPC Summer Singers lead us in song this morning!

monday
JULY 20

Vacation Bible School and Mission Possible **SMPC Campus and the Community**

thursday
JULY 23

We pray for our Vacation Bible School and Mission Possible participants, and adult and youth leaders this week! May they find community, learn more about God and have a safe and fun week!

tuesday
JULY 21

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong **Narthex**

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

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 23

SMPC Thursday Mahjong **Narthex**

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

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.

saturday
JULY 25
9:30 a.m.

Bag Lunches for Roof Above
Drop off at 9:30 a.m. in front of Mecklenburg Hall - Each month, SMPC provides 100 bag lunches for Roof Above to help feed those in need. Sign up to bring bag lunches via QR code. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.



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

sunday
JULY 26
after
worship

Congregational Assessment Tool Survey Results - Town Hall **with Holy Cow! Consulting** **Immediately After Worship, Sanctuary**

Thank you for completing your Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey! The results are in, and we can't wait to share them with you! Emily Swanson, President and Owner of Holy Cow! Consulting, will present this invaluable data. The presentation is expected to last approximately 30 minutes, followed by a brief Q&A session. Questions? Contact the Mission Study Task Force, smpccatsurvey@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMPC Youth Mission Opportunity - Hands of Hope at Crisis Assistance, Thursday, July 30, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Meet at Crisis Assistance, 500 A Spratt St., Charlotte, NC 28206, Middle and High Schoolers - Join us as we serve Crisis Assistance. Please consider bringing a donation of clothes or household items. More information and register on Realm or on smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth Pickleball and Popsicles with the Pastor, Monday, August 3, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Piper Glen Country Club, Middle and High Schoolers -

Whether you're an experienced player or trying pickleball for the first time, come out to play games, enjoy refreshing popsicles, and spend time connecting with your youth group friends. Register on Realm or on smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, August 7, 7:30 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.

UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, August 8, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - Recently, the Red Cross reported a nearly 25% drop in the national blood supply during June. This decline is significantly higher than the usual summer shortage, and it comes at a time when summer disasters typically increase. Please consider donating blood or Power Red in the August blood drive. We also need two more volunteers to serve at the drive. Sign up via the QR code. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com



COMING HOME: THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY WEEK 1: THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

Our series that explores the basics of Christianity through weekly sermons, short devotionals, website posts, simple challenges, and a paper house project began last week, but you can still pick up a kit in the narthex! Find Week 1's sermon and website post via the QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Rev. Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



FROM MISSIONS & OUTREACH: CHRISTMAS IN JULY REPORT

What a blessing it was to celebrate Christmas in July this past Sunday with our ministry partner Konpayon! Thank you to EVERYONE who donated to the drive. So far, the total donated for Christmas in July is \$2,060! We originally hoped to raise enough money to sponsor two 13th graders, but thanks to your generosity, we are able to sponsor four 13th graders! And, we are **so close** to being able to sponsor one more student!



The link to donate will be live through the end of July, so if you haven't had a chance to donate and would like to, please scan the QR code. Contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.

MISSION STORIES: VAL FLEURISMA

“For those kids to have the education that they have, it is due to the sponsorship. For those mouths to be fed, it is from [sponsorships]... We've got some great people that went to the school that are doing great things. The progress that we are making is due to the sponsorship that came through the US.”

Val Fleurisma

This month, we introduce you to Mr. Val Fleurisma, who is following in the footsteps of his parents, Actionnel and Yolande. After completing university work in the United States, Val recently returned to Bayonnais, Haiti, to serve as the new Director of Operations for OFCB. Scan the QR code to watch his video. You will also find a link to the transcript in the video details.



Thank you to Donna Podgorny and Judy Jones for their hard work on these mission videos. If you would like more information on how you can impact our work in Haiti, contact Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



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