



**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream**

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals* Sigfried Karg-Elert

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

Introit Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying KEN MEDEMA

***Call to Worship** (Daniel 4:34, 37) Rev. Melissa White

One: Praise to the Most High God!

All: Honor and glory to the One who lives forever!

One: God's rule is everlasting.

All: God's kingdom endures from generation to generation.

One: All God's works are truth and God's ways are justice.

All: God is able to bring low those who walk in pride.

One: Let us worship God!

***Hymn 385** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* OLD HUNDREDTH

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. White

Merciful God, too often we treat prayer as our last option, not our first. Long before we get around to praying, we wallow in worry, we grumble and gripe, we deem some person or situation hopeless. Forgive us, loving Lord, for acting as if you were weak and uncaring, whereas we know you are our very present help in trouble. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we may trust you and come to you in prayer at all times and in all circumstances.

Assurance of God's Grace (John 3:16)

Rev. White

One: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
 Friends, hear and believe God's good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***Response of Praise**

No. 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 *Can I Pray With My Eyes Open?* by Susan Brown. This book reminds us that prayer can happen in many ways and many places. In 1 Timothy, we are invited to pray in all kinds of ways for all kinds of people.
2. **Activity:** Move around your home and find objects that remind you of people you can pray for. Find something soft for someone who needs comfort, something from the kitchen for someone who is hungry, something with wheels for someone who helps others, something colorful for someone who is celebrating, and something that reminds you of peace. After each object, say one sentence prayer for that kind of person
3. **Create a Prayer Map:** Inspired by Sybil MacBeth's [Praying in Color](#), draw God's name or a symbol for God in the middle of a piece of paper. Around it, draw circles for different people you can pray for: someone you love, someone who helps you, someone who is having a hard time, someone far away, and someone who needs fairness, safety, or peace. Add colors, doodles, lines, and shapes as your prayer.
4. **Journal, considering the following:**
 - a) Who do you usually remember to pray for? Who might be easy to forget?
 - b) Can you pray for someone even if you do not know their name?
 - c) How can praying for someone help us notice and care for them?



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

Dr. Hull

First Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Dr. Hull

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high

positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Second Reading

Psalm 72:1-14

Dr. Hull

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

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

Sermon

“Praying for Our Leaders”

Dr. Hull

***Hymn 501**

Feed Us, Lord

LIVING GOD



1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
 2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
 3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord, with the bread and wine
 4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour-ished here by Christ,



be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
 may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
 of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
 giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

Offertory*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Arr. Peter Hilliard

Sarah Abushakara, 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**

Dr. Hull

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. Odom, Dr. Hull

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**The Prayer after Communion**

Dr. Hull

We Go Out to Serve***Hymn 500*****Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread***

ST. FLAVIAN

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
 2 Here share with us, in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
 that liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine be our im - mor - tal food.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

Benediction Response

No. 547, stanza 2

*Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Here you heard my dear Son's story;
 here you touched him, saw his glory.
 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.*

Postlude

Fanfare- Jacques

Nicholas Lemmens

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

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Sarah Abushakra, organ and piano

A/V Team: Kari Case

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Frank Graham, Judy Jones, Craig Parrish, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Jack Hess

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 1, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Kay Dano as she recovers from a fall.
- Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist, as he prepares to return to work on July 7 after enjoying rest, reflection and spiritual renewal while on sabbatical.
- The people of Venezuela as they respond to the devastation caused by the recent earthquakes, especially those grieving tremendous loss and for those working tirelessly on rescue and recovery efforts.
- 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

lindsey@smpchome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

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Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

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Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

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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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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!

The church office will be closed tomorrow, July 6, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
JULY 7
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 9
9:30 a.m.

Shelter Ministry
Mecklenburg Hall
This group meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. They are always in need of body wash and Rx vials (please, no shampoo or conditioner!). Contact: Carol Morgan, morganc43@gmail.com.

thursday
JULY 9
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 10
8:00 a.m. -
6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Summer Splash Adventure at Fantasy Lake Adventure Park, Meet at the Church, Rising 5th Graders - Graduated 12th Graders
Join us for this fun day of swimming, water slides, floating obstacle courses, and more. \$75 per person. **Registration closes tomorrow, July 6 - no exceptions!** Register on Realm or on smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

sunday
JULY 12
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.

sunday
JULY 12
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.



sunday
JULY 12

Christmas in July - Student Sponsorship Event for Haiti
Narthex before and after 10:10 a.m. worship
We are celebrating Christmas in July with our ministry partner, Konpayon! Join us for a special one-day student sponsorship event to support two 13th-grade students at the ICB School in Bayonnais, Haiti. An Angel Tree featuring \$20 Angels will provide the opportunity to help fund their final year of high school. As an "angel" sponsor, your gift will help provide them 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.



sunday
JULY 12
10:10 a.m.

Coming Home: The Basics of Christianity

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 are available beginning today, July 5, in the narthex, and the series begins July 12. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Rev. Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, July 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 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.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, July 17, 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, July 18, 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.



FROM MISSIONS & OUTREACH: SUPPORT VENEZUELA



SMPC and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are providing support and prayers for its siblings in Christ in Venezuela, where twin earthquakes have reportedly taken nearly 600 lives and caused widespread damage. You can support those suffering by donating to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund by scanning the QR code.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & MISSION POSSIBLE ONLY 12 SPOTS LEFT IN VBS! REGISTER NOW!

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



SERVE WITH THE FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS

Freedom School Partners needs volunteers for its summer programming. Opportunities include serving as a Harambee Reader, being a reading buddy, volunteering at the warehouse, and helping with special events. Find out more and sign up via QR code.



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.



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