



A Service of Worship
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Darwall's Fantasia: II. Aria* John S. Dixon

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

Introit *Feed Us, Lord* Greg Scheer

***Call to Worship** Harper Price

One: To all who are hungry, Jesus invites us:

All: "Come and eat! There's more than enough for all!"

One: To all who thirst, Jesus invites us:

All: "Come and drink! It's free for the taking!"

One: To all of us, Jesus invites us:

All: "Come to Me, and you will find everything you need!"

***Hymn 305** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* DARWALL'S 148TH



1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

Lord of mercy and hope, we know that we have fallen short of being the kind of disciples that you have called us to be. We have turned our backs on people in need; we have closed our ears to the cries of the voiceless. And so we hesitate to come before you because we believe that you are disappointed in us. Remind us again that you are merciful and your love transforms and changes our lives. When we falter and slide off the path of hope you place before us, you “pick us up and dust us off” and put us again on the trail, confident of your faithful presence with us. Forgive us our weakness. Strengthen us and give us courage; help us to be bearers of your good news of peace. We pray this in Christ’s name. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Grace

Rebecca Guzman

One: Feel God’s healing love pouring over you and into your lives. Know that God delights in each one of you and will always be present to you.

All: This is indeed the Good News of the Gospel. Amen!

*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. **Read [Leo's Lunchbox](#).** Leo is used to bringing the same simple lunch to school every day. Then one day, something unexpected happens: his lunch begins to multiply as he shares it with others. Inspired by the feeding of the 5,000, this story reminds us that what we have may seem small, but God can use it in surprising ways to care for a whole community.
2. **Find some bubbles!** See how many bubbles can come from one small bottle. Watch how something tiny can create much more than you expect. Then think about the feeding of the 5,000: a small amount of food became enough for everyone. Talk about how God can take what we offer—our time, kindness, gifts, or resources—and use it in ways that are bigger than we imagine.
3. **Keep exploring at home.** Try this Feeding of the 5,000 [word search](#), this [coloring page](#), or make this simple loaves and fishes [craft](#).
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. What did the disciples think they needed before everyone could eat?
 - b. What happened when the food was shared?
 - c. What is something you have that God could use to help someone else?



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

Isaiah 43:14-21

Rev. Odom

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of

the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Anthem

You Gather in the Outcast

Scot Crandal

Chancel Choir; Jennifer Nancarrow, soprano; Ann Carney, piano

*You gather in the outcast, the wretched and the sore.
From every street and city, from every home we pour.
You lay your hands upon us, you heal the wounded soul,
you raise the crushed, disheartened, you make the broken whole.
You dwell among the lowly, the poor and those who mourn.
To you we bring the suffering, to you we bring the torn.
You meet us with compassion, you mend the hurt we bring,
you give us hope and harbor, you make the sad heart sing.
You shoulder all the burdened, the fallen and the lost.
For you, none is too heavy, for you, no bar the cost.
Your care is never wearied, your love is never still,
your watch for us unsleeping, unwavering your will.
You welcome all the hungry, the thirsty and the weak,
in you we find all fullness, in you is what we seek.
You lay the feast before us, you bid us come and eat,
But, oh, before you serve us, you kneel and wash our feet.*

Second Reading

Mark 6:30-44

Dr. Hull

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When

they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

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

Sermon

"God's Picnic"

Dr. Hull

***Hymn 288**

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

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

Apostles' Creed

Rev. 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Marianne Kim

Blythe Kinsey, piano; Zach Bowyer, organ

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**

Ben Cassell

On our own, what we have to give may not seem like much in light of all you have given us and in the face of so much need. But when we bring our gifts together in love, you can multiply their usefulness beyond what we can imagine. Bless what we offer today, and, as with the loaves and fishes, use it so there is enough to share. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 296**

Go in Grace and Make Disciples

WONDROUS LIGHT

1 Go in grace and make dis - ci - ples. Bap - tize in God's
 2 Go and fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple, not to van - quish,
 3 Go in Pen - te - cos - tal spir - it, man - y tongues and

ho - ly name. Tell of death and res - ur - rec - tion; Eas - ter's
 but to heal. Mend the wounds of sin's di - vi - sions. Ser - vant
 man - y gifts. Feed the hearts of hun - gry peo - ple. Spread the

vic - tory now pro - claim. Christ's com - mis - sion sends us forth
 love to all re - veal. Roles and ranks shall be re - versed;
 gos - pel that up - lifts. Till the day of Christ's re - turn,

to the na - tions of the earth. Go in grace and
 jus - tice flow for all who thirst. Go and fol - low
 as dis - ci - ples, teach and learn. Go in Pen - te -

make dis - ci - ples, mid - wives for the world's re - birth.
 Christ's ex - am - ple. Forge a world of last made first.
 cos - tal spir - it: let God's flame of wit - ness burn.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 540

(choir sings once, all repeat)

Farewell, good friends! Farewell, good friends!

Shalom, shalom! Till we meet again,

till we meet again, shalom, shalom.

Postlude

Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"

Brenda Portman

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Chancel Choir; Jennifer Nancarrow, soprano; Ann Carney, piano;
Blythe Kinsey, piano
Ben Cassell, Harper Price, liturgists

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Curt Ireland, Craig Parrish, Nancy Parrish, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Michael Zagora

Welcome Team: Nalisha Foard, Stella Foard, Kathy Galati, Lorri Hattenhauer, Donna Podgorny

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Barbara Royster by Leanne and Derek Royster, Shannon and Justin Royster, and Megan and Clay Nichols.

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.

A note to parents: We are so delighted that you and your children are here! Children are an integral part of our faith community, and we strive to support parents during worship. Here are some helpful things to know:

- Children are welcome in worship. We understand that means wiggles!
- We provide blue worship totes in the narthex to help children engage in worship. Please return the totes after the service.
- There is a nursery located in the Palmer Building with dedicated staff who are happy to keep your infant - three-year-old safe.
- Children's worship is provided for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. The children gather after the Church Family Moment and return after the sermon. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- A glider and changing table are available in Room 301 for mothers who wish to have privacy while nursing.
- During worship, the service is broadcast to the parlor, where there is more space to move around if your little one becomes restless.

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 August 26, 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.

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

sandy@smpchome.org

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

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Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@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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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
AUG. 30
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BYG (Big Youth Group)
Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers
BYG is held on the first Sunday of each month during the school year and is an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through Bible study, small group time, good food and fun games. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday
SEPT. 1
10:00 a.m.

Handiworkers Group - BACK FROM SUMMER BREAK!
Palmer Building, Room 104
All levels of knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. This group meets weekly to work on projects. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

tuesday
SEPT. 1
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 Kathyryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

thursday
SEPT. 3
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 Kathyryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

friday
SEPT. 4
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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The church office is closed Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day holiday.

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, September 8, 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.

Men's Evening Study Group Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m., OMB Ballantyne -

The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. They are back after summer break! While they typically meet in Chapel 206, they are kicking off the year with a social at OMB Ballantyne! New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, September 10, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy - This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

New Adult Study! Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist, Sundays beginning September 13, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom -

Who was John the Baptist, and what can his life and ministry teach us about Jesus? Using James F. McGrath's *Christmaker*, we'll explore the historical John, his relationship with Jesus and what their ministries reveal about the kingdom of God. Join us for this six-week study and conversation. Register on Realm or via QR. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



BAM! (Bible and Music) Kickoff, Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Palmer Building, Ages K-5th Grade - During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, explore instruments, and build friendships in age-based groups. Dinner is served. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Mental Health Workshop for Parents and Teens, Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary - Parents will gather with Dr. Lisa DeVore for guidance, resources, and encouragement as they support the mental health of children and teens. We welcome all parents to attend - even those with younger children! Middle and high school youth will participate in separate, age-appropriate sessions led by Robert Limkeman, MA, LMFT and Abigail Bates, LCSW, MSW. Register via QR code or on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



International Dining Group, Thursday, September 17, 6:30 p.m., Azucar Cuban Restaurant, 14825 Ballantyne Village Way - Join this group that loves to eat out! Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Carol Roan, candwroan@gmail.com, or Brenda Villa, bvilla20@carolina.rr.com.

SMPC Golf Tournament, Wednesday, September 16, 1:30 p.m., Carolina Lakes - Sun City - All levels, men, women & youth. Shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Range balls will be provided starting at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$55. Proceeds go to Missions and Outreach. Register by September 9 on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.



COMING HOME: THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY

Listen to Sandy's sermon and read Lindsey's website post from last Sunday on Being Born Again via the QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Rev. Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



NEW SMALL GROUPS

CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS! SMPC is starting a new book club, and we'd love your help in writing the first chapter! If you're interested in joining this small group, please complete the short survey (QR code) to let us know your preferences on book club structure, organization, meeting times and book genres. Surveys are due tomorrow, August 31. If you have any questions or thoughts about the new book club, please contact the book club organizers, Jane Brookshire, jane.t.brookshire@gmail.com, or Freda Smith, fredasmithnc8@gmail.com.



New Young Adult Small Group Meets in September for S'mores and Conversation - Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., SMPC Firepit behind Mecklenburg Hall - God is doing a new thing at SMPC - we're launching a new Young Adult Small Group for people in their 20s and 30s this fall! If you're looking to grow in faith, build relationships, and find your people, we'd love for you to join us for this casual gathering. If you're interested in receiving email updates from the group, please email group leaders Katie Cushman, blue4navy@outlook.com, or Chloe Davis, chloedavis870@gmail.com.

MISSION STORIES: BOB CUSHMAN



This month, we invite you to hear from SMPC member Bob Cushman about a memorable SMPC youth trip to Bayonnais, Haiti, that he helped lead with his wife, Kelly, and SMPC member David Nichols in 2018. The trip focused on building relationships between SMPC and OFCB youth and sharing God's love through mission activities. With restricted travel to Haiti currently presenting significant challenges, we hope this five-minute video offers a glimpse into the relationships that make this ministry so meaningful and important.

Scan the QR code to watch the video. Included in the video description is a link to the transcript.



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.