

FALL 2026

SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FROM OUR TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

DR. SANDY HULL

"Thus says the Lord, 'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?'"
(Isaiah 43:19)

Dear Members and Friends of South Mecklenburg,

This is an exciting moment in the history of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! God's new thing is springing forth now, even as we work to discern the church's future direction.

I continue to be grateful for how the SMPC congregation is embracing this transition time. You're not coasting. You're not taking a suspicious wait-and-see attitude. You are pouring yourself into the life and work of the congregation now. And you are enthusiastically supporting the process of discerning what God is calling SMPC to be and do in the coming years. Thank you!

As you read through this newsletter, listen for the whisper of the Holy Spirit. Is there something new you're being nudged to try? This is the time to make sure it gets included in your fall schedule.

I look forward to moving through these momentous days together, prayerfully and expectantly open to God's new thing.

Grace and Peace,
Sandy



Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:10 am or via livestream.
Follow us on Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian & Instagram: @southmeckpres
smpchome.org

 **South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FROM THE MISSION STUDY TASK FORCE

Thank you to everyone who completed the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey! 426 people took the survey; what a great response! The survey results were presented to the congregation on Sunday, July 26. You can watch the presentation at smpchome.org/updates-on-pastoral-transition.

We have met with congregants in several follow-up discussion sessions to hear your reactions to the survey results and other ideas you have about the church's future. **The last opportunities to join a discussion session will be Sunday, August 16, at 9:15 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. in the parlor.** Everyone's welcome! Just drop in!

In September, we will begin our work of prayerful discernment. Using the survey results, input from the follow-up discussions, and demographic data from our area of Charlotte, we will seek God's leading as we answer four questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do? Please pray for us as we work to discern God's vision for the future of SMPC.

If you have any questions or additional thoughts to share, please contact the Mission Study Task Force at smpccatsurvey@gmail.com.

**Yours in Christ,
The Mission Study Task Force**

Greg Hobby, Co-Chair
Walton Price, Co-Chair
Mary Elledge
Whitney Gann
David Huss
Gayle Ireland
Camdyn Sheeler
Brett Thompson
Shelby Ullman



ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER, AND SUPPORT STUDENTS BY SERVING THIS YEAR

Every student deserves the opportunity to thrive, yet too many face barriers to success. Schools play a vital role, but ensuring every student has the support they need to succeed requires an entire community. By investing in students from kindergarten through graduation, we can help open doors to lifelong success.

On Sunday, August 23, join us for Educational Equity Day! Our Educational Equity partners and members of the Missions/Outreach team will be in the narthex with more information on how you can make a difference in a student's life this school year!

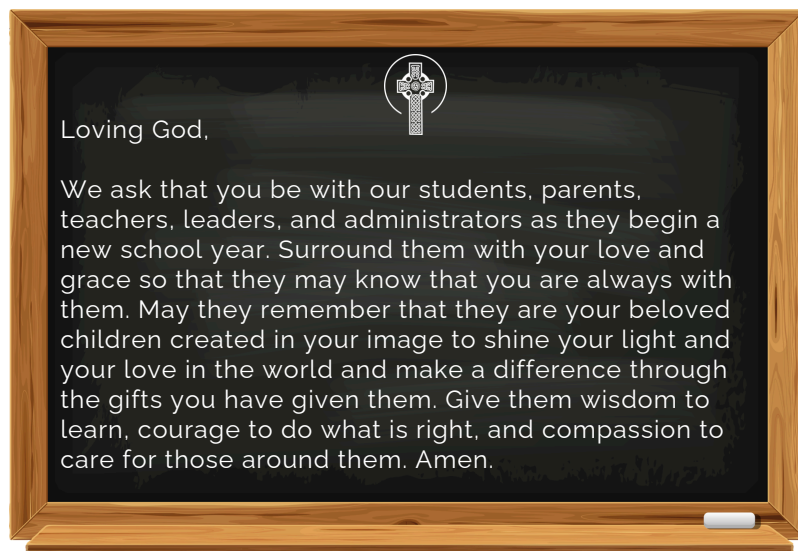
Scan the QR code for more information or contact Kathy Graham, kathyspeech91@gmail.com.



BAM! (Bible and Music) is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Dinner is served!

We kick off Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in a **NEW LOCATION!** We will meet at the SMPC Preschool entrance to the Palmer Building.

IMPORTANT: Please register on Realm by the Friday prior to each BAM! night. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Chancel Choir

Adults

Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Ringers

Adult Handbells

Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Jubilate Choir

Middle and High School

Sundays - 4:00 p.m., Choir Room

Exultate Ringers

High School Handbells

Sundays - 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Gaudete Ringers

Middle School Handchimes

Sundays - 3:30 p.m., Room 302

BAM! (Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs)

Children in grades K-2 (Hosanna Choir) and 3-5 (Alleluia Choir)

Select Sundays, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Meet in Palmer Building

Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org



YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP TO START THIS FALL

God is doing a new thing at SMPC

- we're launching a new Young Adult Small Group (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 be part of this new community.

Join this group for a casual interest gathering and S'mores on Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., at the fire pit behind Mecklenburg Hall.

If you're interested in receiving email updates from the group, please email group leaders Katie Cushman, blue4navy@outlook.com, or Chloe Davis, chloedavis80@gmail.com.



REGISTER FOR THE ALL CHURCH SERVES

On Sunday, August 23, 9:00-10:00 a.m., we invite children, youth and adults to join us in Mecklenburg Hall for school supply sorting and backpack packing for Smithfield and Sterling Elementary Schools. Light breakfast items will be served. Stuffed backpacks will be blessed at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks in worship that morning. To register or donate school supplies, please see Realm or scan the QR code. **Our goal is to donate 100 filled backpacks!** Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



All Church Serves - Sort School Supplies and Pack Backpacks for Smithfield and Sterling Elementary Schools - Sunday, August 23, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, August 23, 10:10 a.m. Worship



'Coming Home' Finale - Bring Your House! - Sunday, August 30, 10:10 a.m. Worship

BYG (Big Youth Group) - Sunday, August 30, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers



First Day of Classes for SMPC Preschool - September 1 and 2

Adult Fall Study Starts - Sunday, September 13, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom



BAM! Bible & Music (K-5th Grade) - Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Palmer Building

Mental Health Workshop for Teens and Parents of Children & Teens with Lisa Devore, Ph.D., Robert Limkeman, MA, LMFT and Abigail Bates, LCSW, MSW - Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Pastor's Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes - Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom



SMPC Golf Tournament - Wednesday, September 16, Carolina Lakes Sun City, 1:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Middle School Retreat - Saturday, September 19 - Sunday, September 20, Camp Bethelwoods and SMPC

SMPC Youth High School Retreat - Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September 27, Lake Tillery

Lunch on the Grounds - Sunday, October 4, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall and Church Grounds

Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 18, 4:00 p.m., In front of Mecklenburg Hall

Commitment Sunday - October 25, During 10:10 a.m. worship

A NEW YEAR AT SMPC PRESCHOOL!



SMPC Preschool is a play-based preschool for ages 2 through TK. The school is welcoming this year's parents and students for Open House on Wednesday, August 26, and Thursday, August 27. We can't wait to have students back on campus with classes starting Tuesday, September 1, and Wednesday, September 2! Contact: Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org.



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GOD IS DOING A
new thing



**"THUS SAYS THE LORD, 'I AM ABOUT
TO DO A NEW THING; NOW IT
SPRINGS FORTH; DO YOU NOT
PERCEIVE IT?'"** *ISAIAH 43:19*

STEWARDSHIP 2027

COMMITMENT SUNDAY | OCTOBER 25

**MIDDLE & HIGH
SCHOOLERS
WELCOME**



SMPC Youth is a Christ-centered youth ministry where middle and high schoolers know they belong, can explore and grow in their faith, and feel inspired by Christ's love to go and serve. We have tons of fun events and fellowship opportunities planned for the fall.

Join us - and invite a friend!

smpchome.org/youth-ministry

Instagram @smpcyouth

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

South Meck Press is a quarterly publication from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. For more worship, study, and fellowship opportunities, please visit smpchome.org.