



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2026**  
**10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## **We Gather**

**Prelude**                      *Variations for Organ on "Hanover"*                      Michael Burkhardt  
                                         *I. Fanfare and Chorale*

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

**Mission Study Task Force**                      Shelby Ullman

**Introit**                      *How Very Good and Pleasant*                      Barbara Boertje

**\*Call to Worship** (Psalm 9)

One: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
      I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**All: I will be glad and exult in you:**  
      **I will sing praise to your name,**  
      **O Most High.**

One: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
      a stronghold in times of trouble.

**All: Those who know your name trust in you,**  
      **for you, O Lord, have never forsaken**  
      **those who seek you.**

One: Let us worship God!

**\*Hymn 299    *You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim***                      HANOVER

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,  
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,  
 3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"  
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.  
 he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.  
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.  
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,  
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,  
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,  
 all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.  
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.  
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Rev. Melissa White

Faithful, loving God, we have resisted your call in our lives. You call us to new life in Christ, but in complacency and fear, we prefer not to be disturbed. You call your church to new possibilities for loving and serving one another and the world, but it sounds too hard, too risky. Questioning your wisdom and doubting your power, we stick with what seems sane and safe. Forgive us, we pray, through your Son Jesus Christ, and send your Spirit to fill us with fresh vision and courage. Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Rev. White

One: "We have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us."  
 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. [Watch the story](#) of Jesus walking on water. What happens when Peter steps out of the boat? What happens when he becomes afraid? Notice what Jesus does when Peter calls for help.
2. Act out the story together! Choose someone to be Jesus, Peter, and the disciples. Use a couch, chairs, or a blanket as your boat and imagine a storm all around you. Take turns being Peter and stepping “out of the boat.” What do you think Peter was thinking and feeling? How about the other disciples?
3. Create a watercolor picture of the stormy sea and add words from the story such as “Take courage!” or “Don’t be afraid.” You could also make a small boat to float in the bathtub or draw yourself stepping out of the boat toward Jesus. As you create, talk about something that takes courage for you.
4. **Wonder Together:**
  - a. I wonder why Peter became afraid.
  - b. I wonder what Peter learned about Jesus that night.
  - c. I wonder what helps us remember that Jesus is with us when we are afraid.



**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**

Isaiah 43:1-3a

Rev. White

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by

name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

**Anthem**

*The Storm Is Passing Over*

arr. Barbara Baker

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

*Have courage my soul, and let us journey on.  
Though the night is dark, and I am far from home.  
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.  
The storm is passing over! Hallelu!*

**Second Reading**

Matthew 14:22-33

Dr. Hull

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

**Sermon**

"Get Out of the Boat!"

Dr. Hull

**\*Hymn 654**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

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

Confession of 1967

Rev. Lindsey Odom

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's work of healing the enmities that separate humans from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given the church the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**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**

*Call of the Water*

Kathleen Wissinger

Chancel Ringers; William Rose, percussion

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [www.smpchome.org/give](http://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**

Holy and generous God, you are always doing a new thing, calling your people to trust you and follow where Christ leads. Receive these gifts and use them to share your love, help those in need, and grow your kingdom. Amen.

**We Go Out to Serve**

**\*Hymn 307**

***God of Grace and God of Glory***

CWM RHONDDA

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

**\*Congregational Response**

Hymn 765

*May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

**Postlude**

*Variations for Organ on "Hanover"  
V. Toccata*

Michael Burkhardt

## **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

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

Chancel Ringers; William Rose, percussion

**A/V Team:** Brad Alford, Michael Zagora

**Ushers:** Andy Burke, Rich Fuller, Frank Graham, Curtis Guy, Bjorn Hansen  
Tom Schorr

**Welcome Team:** Geena Woodard, Harper Leigh Woodard, Jones  
Woodard, Michael Woodard, Rue Woodard

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20, at the close of the 10:10 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing officers.

Part One of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is The Book of Confessions, which contains twelve faith statements from throughout the history of Christianity. The Confession of 1967 was created in the United States to reflect theologically on and bring unity in turbulent times.

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](mailto: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](mailto:melissa@smpchome.org) or 704-887-7488.

### **Congregational Notes (as of September 9, 2026)**

#### **Remember in Prayer**

- Daniel Lee, as he recovers from hand surgery.
- The Mission Study Task Force as they work to discern God's calling for SMPC.
- 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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org)

### **SMPC STAFF**

**Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor**

[sandy@smpchome.org](mailto:sandy@smpchome.org)

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

[lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org)

**Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate**

[melissa@smpchome.org](mailto:melissa@smpchome.org)

**Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music**

[laura@smpchome.org](mailto:laura@smpchome.org)

**Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist**

[zach@smpchome.org](mailto:zach@smpchome.org)

**Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation**

[rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org)

**Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager**

[adrienne@smpchome.org](mailto:adrienne@smpchome.org)

**Cheryl Perry, Director of Communications**

[cheryl@smpchome.org](mailto:cheryl@smpchome.org)

**Steve Stevenson, Facility Administrator**

[steve@smpchome.org](mailto:steve@smpchome.org)

**Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director**

[tammy@smpchome.org](mailto:tammy@smpchome.org)

**Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator**

[mkzagora@smpchome.org](mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org)

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

[prayer@SMPChome.org](mailto: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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PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

[smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org)

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!

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

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| <b>tuesday</b><br><b>SEPT. 8</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Handiworkers Group</b><br><b>Palmer Building, Room 104</b><br>All levels of knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. This group meets weekly to work on projects. Contact: Judy Jameson, <a href="mailto:jgjameson@gmail.com">jgjameson@gmail.com</a> . |
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| <b>tuesday</b><br><b>SEPT. 8</b><br><b>10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>SMPC Tuesday Mahjong</b><br><b>Narthex</b><br>Players of all skill levels are invited to join this group, which meets weekly on Tuesdays. Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, <a href="mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org">mkzagora@smpchome.org</a> , to be added to the email list. |
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| <b>tuesday</b><br><b>SEPT. 8</b><br><b>1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</b> | <b>A Caregiver's Journey</b><br><b>McQueen Room</b><br>A support group focused on finding meaning and purpose while caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, <a href="mailto:kathygarner15@gmail.com">kathygarner15@gmail.com</a> . |
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| <b>tuesday</b><br><b>SEPT. 8</b><br><b>7:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Men's Evening Study Group</b><br><b>OMB Ballantyne</b><br>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, <a href="mailto:jonmyers2@gmail.com">jonmyers2@gmail.com</a> . |
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| <b>thursday</b><br><b>SEPT. 10</b><br><b>9:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Men's Breakfast Group</b><br><b>Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy</b><br>This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, <a href="mailto:Btyler@unitedskates.com">Btyler@unitedskates.com</a> . |
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| <b>thursday</b><br><b>SEPT. 10</b><br><b>9:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Shelter Ministry</b><br><b>Mecklenburg Hall</b><br>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, <a href="mailto:morgancc43@gmail.com">morgancc43@gmail.com</a> . |
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| <b>thursday</b><br><b>SEPT. 10</b><br><b>1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</b> | <b>SMPC Thursday Mahjong</b><br><b>Narthex</b><br>Players of all skill levels are invited to join this group, which meets weekly on Thursdays. Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, <a href="mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org">mkzagora@smpchome.org</a> , to be added to the email list. |
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| <b>sunday</b><br><b>SEPT. 13</b><br><b>9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>New Adult Study! Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist</b><br><b>McQueen Room or Zoom</b><br>Who was John the Baptist, and what can his life and ministry teach us about Jesus? Using James F. McGrath's <i>Christmaker</i> , 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, <a href="mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org">rebecca@smpchome.org</a> . |
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**sunday  
SEPT. 13**

**Scout Troops 119 and 219 BBQ & Veggie Chili Sale**  
**Church Parking Lot, Before and After Worship**  
Scouts will be at church taking orders for BBQ and veggie chili on two Sundays: September 13 and September 20. You can also order online anytime via the QR. Pick up is at the church on Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 27, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Contact: Roy Bivens, troop119clt@gmail.com.



**sunday  
SEPT. 13  
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. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



**sunday  
SEPT. 13  
5:00 p.m. -  
6:30 p.m.**

**BAM! (Bible and Music) Kickoff**  
**Palmer Building, Ages K-5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://smpchome.org/events). Contact: Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).

**sunday  
SEPT. 13  
5:00 p.m. -  
6:30 p.m.**

**Mental Health Workshop for Parents and Teens 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](http://smpchome.org/events). Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**New Young Adult Small Group Meets in September for S'mores and Conversation, Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., SMPC Fire pit 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! 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](mailto:blue4navy@outlook.com), or Chloe Davis, [chloedavis870@gmail.com](mailto:chloedavis870@gmail.com).

**Pastor's Weekday Bible Study, Wednesday, September 16, 9:30 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom** - This Bible study meets weekly with Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull. They will be studying the Sermon on the Mount. Contact Adrienne Jaquith, [adrienne@smpchome.org](mailto:adrienne@smpchome.org), for Zoom information.

**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](http://smpchome.org/events). Contact: Brett Thompson, [bathomp1971@yahoo.com](mailto:bathomp1971@yahoo.com), or Ron Morgan, [colronmorg@gmail.com](mailto:colronmorg@gmail.com).



**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](mailto:candwroan@gmail.com), or Brenda Villa, [bvilla20@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bvilla20@carolina.rr.com).

**Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, September 18, 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](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com).

**Center of Hope Breakfast, Saturday, September 19, 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](http://smpchome.org/events). Contact: Lee Martin, [leewilsonmartin@gmail.com](mailto:leewilsonmartin@gmail.com).

