



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Scout Sunday

September 27, 2026

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Aria Dolce* arr. Greg Sewell

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Moment for Scouting David Gaines

Mission Study Task Force Mary Elledge

Introit *What Does the Lord Require of You?* Jim Strathdee

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 84) Emily Mitchell

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord!

**All: My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord.**

One: A day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

**All: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

One: For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor.

**All: O Lord of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you!**

One: Let us lift our hearts and voices in worship!

***Hymn 402** *How Lovely, Lord* MERLE'S TUNE



1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long-ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Rebecca Guzman

God of grace and truth, your Son came that we might have life and have it abundantly. But we have chosen another path. Too often we have sought promotions, popularity, prestige, and possessions as if they were the source of abundant life, and we have missed the true life you give us in Christ. Forgive us, we pray, and fill us with your Spirit so that we will choose a new perspective and a new pathway forward.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rebecca Guzman

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

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. **Story Connection:** Read or [watch](#) *What Is Given from the Heart* by Patricia C. McKissack. James Otis and his mother have very little themselves, but when another family loses everything in a fire, they discover that everyone has something meaningful to give. What did James Otis give? Why was his gift valuable even though it didn't cost money? (Source: Ann Thomas Knox, [StoryPath](#))
2. **Craft:** Find an empty jar or container and decorate it with the word GIVE. Decide as a family how to add money to it—perhaps part of an allowance, birthday money, or spare change. When the jar begins to fill, choose together where to give it. It could go to the church, a mission partner, or another organization that helps people. Make sharing part of the way your family thinks about money.
3. **Game:** Play “Guess Who?” and think of a person, place, group, or cause that could use some help. Without saying what it is, write down five ways someone could help. Read your five ideas aloud and see if everyone else can guess who—or what—you are trying to help. Then take turns!
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. Why do you think it can be hard to share something that is important to us?
 - b. What do you think it means to be “rich in good works”?
 - c. How could your family use something you have 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. Melissa White

First Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Rev. White

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their

eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Anthem *Sing Community, Sing Peace* Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*Sister, brother, live in harmony. Same and other, live in harmony.
Human family, in choirs for all to hear and see,
Sing community, sing peace.
Simple song, sacred call; dare to sing and live in peace, and love for all.
Against the silence, against the shouting,
dare to sing and live in peace and love for all.
With your neighbor, live in harmony. With the stranger, live in harmony.
With the refugee, in choirs for all to hear and see,
Sing community, sing peace.
For the children, live in harmony. With the frightened, live in harmony.
With the enemy, in choirs for all to hear and see,
Sing community, sing peace*

Second Reading Selections from Proverbs Dr. Hull
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Choose Life!" Dr. Hull

***Hymn 701** *Lord, Prepare Me* SANCTUARY

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

***The Affirmation of Faith (unison)** Rev. White
Brief Statement of Faith Lines 7-26

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,

forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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

Spirit Song

arr. Tom Fettle

Lori Schellin, soprano

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**

Fiona Mitchell

Generous God, everything we have comes from you. Take these gifts and use them to bring hope, help, and love to others. Teach us to hold what we have with open hands, to share generously, and to find our greatest treasure in you. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -
 where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so)
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -
 where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***Benediction Response**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

William Tomer

Postlude

Festival Song

Greg Sewell

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Blythe Kinsey, piano; Lori Schellin, soprano

Emily Mitchell, Fiona Mitchell, liturgists

Acolytes: Amelia Dedinsky, Daniel Lee

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Dean Elledge, Mary Elledge, Craig Parrish, Michael Zagora

Welcome Team: Troop 119, Troop 219, Pack 119, GSA Troop 809, GSA Troop 1319, GSA Troop 2269, GSA Troop 3463

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. A Brief Statement of Faith, from which today's Affirmation of Faith is taken, was created in 1983 as part of the reunion of the two largest Presbyterian denominations in the United States.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church has been made by Alan Chadd to the glory of God and in memory of his parents, Charles and Beverly Chadd.

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!

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 September 23, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Mike Grace, as he recovers from surgery.
- Marge Kruse, as she recovers from surgery.
- Our high school youth and leaders who traveled to Lake Tillery this weekend, that God may grant safe travels, deepen faith and friendships, and bless their time together with joy and fun.
- 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

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

melissa@smpchome.org

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

laura@smpchome.org

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

zach@smpchome.org

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

rebecca@smpchome.org

Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager

adrienne@smpchome.org

Cheryl Perry, Director of Communications

cheryl@smpchome.org

Steve Stevenson, Facility Administrator

steve@smpchome.org

Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

tammy@smpchome.org

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

We photograph and record worship services and events for church use. We may use these materials in church communications. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-735003. All rights reserved.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

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!

Of Note: If you ordered Scout Troops 119 and 219 BBQ or veggie chili, you can pick it up today until 12:00 p.m.! Contact: Roy Bivens, troop119clt@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

SEPT. 27

5:00 p.m. -

6:30 p.m.

BAM! (Bible and Music)

Palmer Building, Grades K-5th

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.

today

SEPT. 27

5:00 p.m. -

6:30 p.m.

Middle School Small Group Dinner

Mecklenburg Hall, 6th-8th Graders

We hope all middle schoolers will join us for games, dinner, fellowship and a short devotion! Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

SEPT. 29

10:00 a.m.

Handiworkers Group

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, jgjamason@gmail.com.

tuesday

SEPT. 29

10:30 a.m. -

12:30 p.m.

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong

Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Tuesdays. Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

wednesday

SEPT. 30

9:30 a.m.

Pastor's Weekday Bible Study

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, for Zoom information.

thursday

OCT. 1

1:15 p.m. -

3:15 p.m.

SMPC Thursday Mahjong

Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Thursdays. Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

friday

OCT. 2

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.

saturday

OCT. 3

11:00 a.m. -

2:00 p.m.

World Communion Saturday of Worship & Service

Locust Presbyterian Church, 607 W. Main Street, Locust, NC

Join our church family for a Presbytery-wide World Communion Saturday with fellowship, worship, service and communion. We'll carpool from the church. Find more information, including a link to register with SMPC and the Presbytery, via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



sunday
OCT. 4
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

Adult Study: Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist
McQueen Room or Zoom

Using James F. McGrath's *Christmaker*, we are exploring the historical John, his relationship with Jesus and what their ministries reveal about the kingdom of God. Register on Realm or via QR. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



sunday
OCT. 4
11:15 a.m. -
1:00 p.m.

Lunch on the Grounds
Mecklenburg Hall and SMPC Parking Lot

All are invited for our fall Lunch on the Grounds! Catered by Brown Bag. Adults - \$12; Children 4-11 - \$6; Children 3 and under - free. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch Bunch Fall Gathering, Tuesday, October 6, 11:30 a.m., Trio Restaurant, 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28226 -

All are invited to join this group for lunch. Bring a friend! RSVP on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com, or Anita Schult, coachanita2001@yahoo.com.



Shelter Ministry, Thursday, October 8, 9:30 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall - This group meets on the second Thursday every month to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. They are always in need of body wash and Rx vials (no shampoo or conditioner!). Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, October 8, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy - This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

New! SMPC Book Club - 'Pages and Fellowship' - All readers are invited to join the new SMPC book club! Their first meeting is Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m., or Tuesday, October 20, 1:30 p.m., in the McQueen Room. Both groups will read the same book, and participants can go to either meeting. They will read *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Please register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Freda Smith, fredasmithnc8@gmail.com, or Jane Brookshire, jane.t.brookshire@gmail.com.

Breaking Bread, Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m., SouthPark Church

- Join our Haiti mission partners, Konpayon, and other supporters for a catered dinner with SMPC charter members Actionnel and Yolande Fleurisma! RSVP via QR code or konpayon.com. Contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.



Center of Hope Desserts, Sunday, October 11, 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.

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, October 13, 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, October 13, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

International Dining Group, Thursday, October 15, 6:30 p.m., Mario's Italian Restaurant, 2945 Matthews Weddington Rd, Matthews, NC - This group meets for a fun dinner out on the third Thursday of each month. All are welcome - bring a friend! RSVP on Realm, via QR code or at smpchome.org/events. Contact: Carol Roan, candwroan@gmail.com, or Brenda Villa, bvilla20@carolina.rr.com.



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres