



A Service of Worship
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *God of Grace* Paul Manz

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rebecca Guzman
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Surely the Presence* Lanny Wolfe

***Call to Worship** Rebecca Guzman

One: Come, let us worship the God who sees us.

All: The Lord is full of steadfast love and mercy.

One: When Hagar wandered in the wilderness, God saw her, spoke to her, and gave her hope.

All: When we feel forgotten or alone, God remains faithful.

One: God calls us to see one another with compassion, to pursue justice, and to love our neighbors as Christ has loved us.

All: Let us worship the God who sees, who saves, and who never abandons God's people.

***Hymn 65** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

Gracious God, we are sorry. Sometimes we do not see others or their needs. Sometimes we cause hurt. Sometimes our words and actions bring suffering. Sometimes we judge those who are different from us. Sometimes we fail to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Forgive us, O' God. Forgive us for overlooking our neighbors, for the harm we have caused, for the ways we have remained silent in the face of injustice, and for the times we have trusted ourselves more than you. Open our eyes to see as you see. Shape our hearts to love as you love. Set us free to follow Jesus with compassion, humility, and courage. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***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:** [Watch](#) or read *All of Me* by Molly Bang. As you read, notice all the different parts of himself the child celebrates. Talk together: What parts of yourself are you thankful for? Psalm 139 reminds us that God made us, knows us, sees all of who we are, and celebrates us! [Source](#).
2. **Make an "All of Me" Mini Book:** Fold a few pieces of paper into a small book about the person God made you to be. Draw or write about things your body can do, things you love, things that make you laugh, and things that make you uniquely you. Finish with Psalm 139:14.
3. **Play a Game: How Well Do You Know Me?** Choose one person to be "It." Ask them a question—like their favorite food, what always makes them laugh, or what makes them feel loved—and have everyone else guess their answer before they reveal it. Take turns being "it." God knows us even better than we know one another.
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a) What do you think it means that God sees and knows you?
 - b) When have you felt especially seen, known, or loved?
 - c) How can we help other people know that they are seen and valued too?

**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

Psalm 139:1-12

Rev. White

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Anthem

Be Still

Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am with you.

*Be still and know that I will comfort you
when you come to me in your hour of need.*

Be still and know that I am God.

*Be still and know that I am here for you;
and I will wipe your tears; you will be renewed.*

*Come unto Me, My child, be still,
and know that I will give you rest.*

*I am present in your pain and I always
will remain your Comforter and Friend.*

My peace I leave with you.

My peace I give unto you. Be still.

Second Reading

Genesis 16:1-16

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her. The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you

going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin." So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

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

Sermon

"The God who Sees"

Rev. Odom

***Hymn 661**

Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

SPARROW

(Stanzas 1 and 3)



1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows come?
2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der word I hear,
3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,



Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
and rest-ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,



when Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant friend is he:
though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:
I draw the clos-er to him; from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me;



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.



I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)



for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.



Offering Invitation

Rev. White

Offertory

Prelude on "Slane"

Phil Lehenbauer

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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Rev. White

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, Rev. White

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

Hymn 520

Taste and See

TASTE AND SEE

(all sing refrain; cantor sings stanzas)

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall

al-ways be on my lips; my soul shall glo-ry in the

Lord, for God has been so good to me.

(E) (G#m7) (Amaj7) (E) (F#m7)
F Leader or All Am7 3 Bbmaj7 F Gm7

2 Glo-ri-fy the Lord with me. To-gether let us

(E) (F#m7) (B7) (E) (G#7)
F 3 Gm7 C7 F A7

all praise God's name. I called the Lord, who an-swered

(C#m) (C#m7) (A) (E) (F#m7) (B7)
Dm Dm7 Bb F 3 Gm7 C7 to Refrain

me; from all my trou-bles, I was set free.

(E) (G#m7) (Amaj7) (E) (F#m7)
F Leader or All Am7 3 Bbmaj7 F Gm7

3 Wor-ship the Lord, all you peo-ple. You'll want for

(E) (F#m7) (B7) (E) (G#7)
F 3 Gm7 C7 F A7

noth-ing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is

(C#m) (C#m7) (A) (E) (F#m7) (B7)
Dm Dm7 Bb F 3 Gm7 C7 to Refrain

good; in God we need put all our trust.

The Prayer after Communion

Rev. White

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)
 B $\flat$ E $\flat$ A $\flat$ B $\flat$

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F $\sharp$ m7) (G) (A)
 A $\flat$ E $\flat$ Gm7 A $\flat$ B $\flat$

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F $\sharp$) (G) (D)
 Cm E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$ E $\flat$

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Odom

***Benediction Response**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

William Tomer

Postlude

*Processional and Trumpet Tune
 on "Cwm Rhondda"*

Wayne L. Wold

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

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; Blythe Kinsey, piano

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Judy Jones, Craig Parrish, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Blair Choren, Brooke Choren, Marla Choren, Michael
 Choren

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 September 2, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- 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!

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

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
SEPT. 8
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, jgjameson@gmail.com.

tuesday
SEPT. 8
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.

tuesday
SEPT. 8
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A Caregiver's Journey
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.

tuesday
SEPT. 8
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group
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.

thursday
SEPT. 10
9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group
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.

thursday
SEPT. 10
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, morgancc43@gmail.com.

thursday
SEPT. 10
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.

sunday
SEPT. 13
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

New Adult Study! Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist
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.



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-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.

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. Contact: Lindsey Odom, 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, or Chloe Davis, 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, 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. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, 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, or Brenda Villa, 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.

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. Contact: Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com.

