



A Service of Worship
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Blessed Assurance* arr. Marianne Kim

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

Moment for Mission Whitney Gann

Introit *Surely the Presence* Larry Wolfe

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 96:4-6)

One: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

All: The Lord is to be revered above all gods.

One: The gods of the peoples are mere idols,

All: but the Lord made the heavens.

One: Honor and majesty belong to the Lord;

All: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

One: Let us worship God!

***Hymn 839** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* ASSURANCE



1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,
Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,



pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior



all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my



song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



Prayer of Confession (unison)

Rev. Melissa White

Merciful God, we confess to chasing God-substitutes. Promotions, parties, cars, clothes, cash, careers—all these and more we stuff into the empty place in our lives that only you can fill. And we're disappointed. We wonder why we constantly need to have more and do better. Forgive us, we pray, through your Son Jesus Christ, and redirect us by your Spirit to love and serve you and you alone. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace (Micah 7:18-19)

Rev. White

One: "Who is a God like you, pardoning sin and passing over transgression? You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

Friends, hear and believe God's good news.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Response of Praise**

Hymn 659

*Know that God is good. Know that God is good.
Know that God is good; God is good; God is good.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.*

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. Listen to a [read-aloud](#) of *More* by I.C. Springman. Why does the magpie keep collecting more? What is the difference between plenty and too much? At the end, the magpie and mouse fly away carrying only a few things. Could they fly as easily if they were carrying everything? Talk about how having more does not always make us happier or freer.
2. Try a "Too Much Stuff" challenge! Fill one person's arms with pillows, toys, books, or other safe household items and have them walk across the room without dropping anything. Then put most of it down and try again. Which way felt easier? How can having too much sometimes weigh us down? Jesus reminds us that our lives are about more than the things we own.
3. Search your house for supplies to make craft. Don't buy anything! Reusing something meant for the trash is a bonus. What did you discover that you already had? How can using what we have remind us that we often already have enough? See what you can create using only what is already around you.
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. I wonder how we know when we have enough.
 - b. I wonder why we sometimes keep wanting more.
 - c. I wonder what things are valuable even though they cannot be bought.
 - d. I wonder what we could share because we already have enough.



*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

Philippians 4:10-13

Rev. White

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Anthem

Until I Reach My Home

arr. Brandon Boyd

Chancel Choir; Laura Black, soprano;

Alec White, piano; William Rose, percussion

Lord, until I reach my home. Until I reach my home;

I never expect my journey over, 'til I reach my home.

I would not be a sinner I'll tell you the reason why;

I'm afraid my Lord might call my name and I wouldn't be ready to die.

I went up on the mountain I didn't go there to stay;

Then my soul got happy, then I stayed all day.

I got a crown up in a that kingdom ain-a that good news?

I got a crown up in a that kingdom ain-a that good news?

I'm a gonna lay down this world gonna shoulder up a my cross,

Gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain-a that good news?

Second Reading

Matthew 6:19-25

Dr. Hull

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will

eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

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

Sermon

"Possessed"

Dr. Hull

***Hymn 720**

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.



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

Scots Confession

Rev. Lindsey Odom

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cling, whom alone we must serve, whom alone we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and 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

A New Day
Chancel Ringers

Benjamin Tucker

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**

Braxton Kasmer

Generous God, you are the giver and source of all life. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Turn our hearts away from all that promises life but cannot give it, and draw us ever closer to you, the source of abundant life. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 377**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON



light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 80

(choir sings once; all repeat)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -
fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the
trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

Postlude

Toccata

Gaston Bélier

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir; Laura Black, soprano; Alec White, piano; William Rose, percussion

Chancel Ringers

Braxton Kasmer, liturgist

Acolytes: Elise Cates, Amelia Dedinsky

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Mitchell Davis, Dan DeChant, Dick Engle, Jenny Gates, Jonathan Mangels, Anna Mangels

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Jeana Lee, Serena Samana

Part One of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the Book of Confessions, which contains twelve faith statements, developed at many times and places throughout the history of the Christian church. The Scots Confession was written in 1560, marking England's recognition of Scotland as a sovereign nation.

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 October 7, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- For Laurann and Blake Robertson as Blake is currently hospitalized.
- Nancy Guy as she recovers from surgery for a broken leg.
- 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

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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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Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian; Instagram: @southmeckpres

SMPC WEEKLY

OCTOBER 11, 2026

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies near Coffee Grounds. Registry pads are located in your pews. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps introduce yourself to someone new!



TODAY, OCTOBER 11

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

On Sunday, October 4, we kicked off 2027 Stewardship, "God is Doing a New Thing," based on Isaiah 43:19. What does "doing a new thing" look like for SMPC? Greg Hobby shared a challenge to our congregation as we began our Stewardship journey toward Commitment Sunday in last Sunday's Moment for Mission. Scan the QR code to watch the video or read the transcript.



Nourish Up Food Drive - Bags Available Narthex

We are collecting canned goods for Nourish Up throughout October. Bags are located in the narthex with a list of items needed.

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

BAM! (Bible and Music)

5:00-6:30 p.m. • Palmer Building • Grades K-5

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

SMPC Youth Operation Sandwich **SERVE!**

5:00-6:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall • Middle and High Schoolers

We will make sandwiches for Roof Above! Please sign up to bring sandwich materials and register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

THIS WEEK

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong

Tuesday, Oct. 13 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Tuesdays.

Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, Oct. 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, Oct. 13 • 7:30 p.m. • Chapel 206

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays. New faces are always welcome!

Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com

Pastor's Weekday Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 14 • 9:30 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

This Bible study meets weekly with Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull. They are studying the Sermon on the Mount. Contact Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org

SMPC Thursday Mahjong

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 1:15-3:15 p.m. • Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Thursdays.

Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org

International Dining Group

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 6:30 p.m. • Mario's Italian Restaurant

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



Making Space Moms Group

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 7:30 p.m. • Room 302

Moms of all ages are welcome to join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month for Bible study, service and fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome! No registration required, but participants can RSVP on Realm or smpchome.org/events.

Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, Oct. 16 • 7:30-8:30 a.m. • Chapel 206

Meets on the first and third Fridays for study and fellowship. All are welcome.

Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com



Serve Breakfast for Center of Hope Guests

SERVE!

Saturday, Oct. 17 • Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m.

To donate or sign up to serve, scan QR code or go to smpchome.org/events.

Contact: Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com

Hops and Vine Around Town

Saturday, Oct. 17 • 4:00-6:00 p.m. • Carolina Beer Temple in Matthews

All are invited for fellowship and fun! Contact: Frank Graham,

Frank.Graham@us.forvismazars.com

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Adult Study: Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist

9:00-10:00 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman,

rebecca@smpchome.org

Blessing of the Animals

3:00 p.m. • SMPC Parking Lot

All pets welcome! Must be leashed or in a carrier.

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org



SMPC Youth High Seas Mini Golf

5:00-6:30 p.m. • 10001 Charlotte Hwy, Ft. Mill • Middle and High Schoolers

Mini golf fun! Please bring extra cash if you'd like to enjoy a Pelican's SnoBall after golf! \$12 per person. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey

Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

COMING UP

SMPC Book Club - Pages and Fellowship

NEW!

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

The group is reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Freda Smith, fredasmithnc8@gmail.com, or Jane Brookshire, jane.t.brookshire@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, Oct. 22 • 9:30 a.m. • Big View Diner

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays to enjoy breakfast and conversation.

Contact: Bob Tyler, btyler@unitedskates.com

Bag Lunches for Roof Above

SERVE!

Saturday, Oct. 24 • 9:30 a.m. • In front of Mecklenburg Hall

Each month, SMPC provides 100 bag lunches for Roof Above to help feed those in need. Sign up to bring bag lunches via QR code.

Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, Nov. 7 • 8:00 - 12:30 p.m. • The Commons

SERVE!

It's SMPC's 118th blood drive! Please bring your American Red Cross Donor Card or photo I.D. We will celebrate this milestone with cake after worship on Sunday, November 15! Sign up via QR code. Contact:

Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com



DivorceCare's 'Surviving the Holidays'

Sunday, Nov. 15 • 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. • Chapel 206

Facilitated by SMPC members Janet Goetz and Andrew Metzler, this seminar offers community, support and hope. Childcare is available if needed. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com, or Andrew Metzler, Andrewm1288@gmail.com