South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Harvest Home* Gilbert Martin

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull

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

Introit *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Ken Medema

***Call to Worship** Ben Cassell

One: God knows us completely—the parts we gladly show and the parts we would rather hide.

All: We come before God just as we are.

One: Christ meets us in our questions, our stories, our courage, and our uncertainty.

All: We come ready to be known and loved.
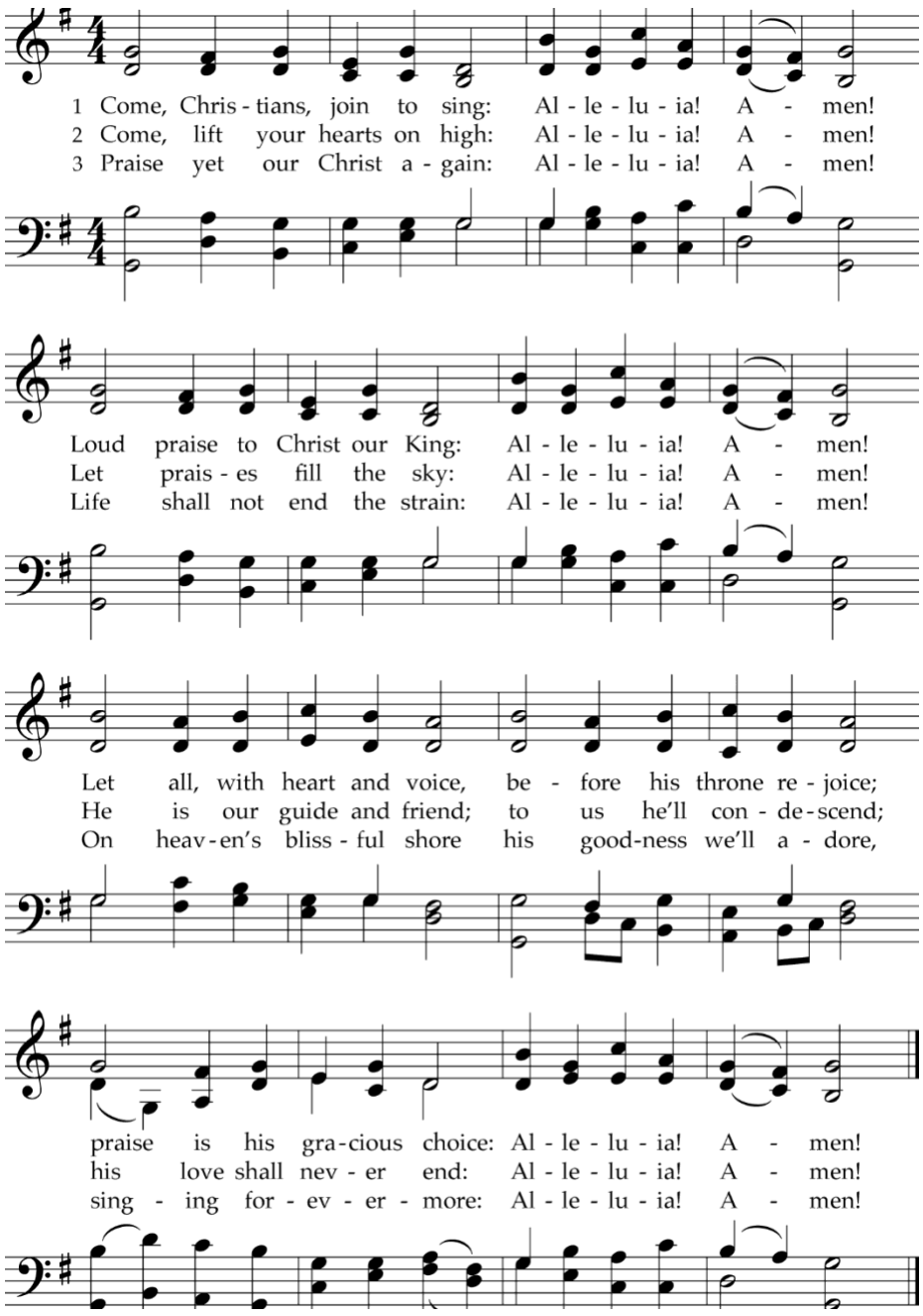
One: The Holy Spirit calls us to be witnesses—not to someone else's story, but to what we ourselves have seen and known.

All: We will tell the truth of God's grace in our lives.

One: Come, with nothing to prove and nothing to pretend.

All: Let us worship God.

Hymn 267** ***Come, Christians, Join to Sing MADRID



Prayer of Confession (unison) Rebecca Guzman

Merciful God, you know us completely, yet we often try to hide parts of ourselves from you and from one another. We pretend to have the answers, cover our mistakes, and worry too much about how others see us. Forgive us. Help us live honestly, trust your grace, and share the truth of what we have seen and experienced. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace Rebecca Guzman

One: Hear the good news: God sees us fully and loves us completely. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, made new, and set free to live as the people God created us to be.

All: Thanks be to God! 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. In John 9, Jesus really sees a man who had been overlooked by many people around him. Watch this McDonald's ad about "invisible" workers. Who are some people we might pass every day without really noticing? What could you do to show someone, "I see you, and you matter"?
2. **Play Spot It!** If you have the game, use it. If not, create your own cards to color and cut out here. The game works because you have to slow down, look closely, and notice what is right in front of you. How might we practice looking that carefully at the people around us?
3. **Take a "Who Do You See?" walk.** Walk around your neighborhood, a park, a store, or another place you visit regularly. Instead of looking only at buildings, signs, or things, pay attention to the people you see. Who is working? Who is helping? Who seems alone? Who is doing something kind? Choose at least one person to greet, thank, or encourage.
4. **Wonder Together:**
   a. I wonder what it feels like to be overlooked.
   b. I wonder who Jesus notices that other people miss.
   c. I wonder what changes when we really see another person
   d. I wonder how our lives can show others that they matter to God.

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:

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 Acts 1:6-8 Rev. White

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Anthem *Just As I Am* arr. Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
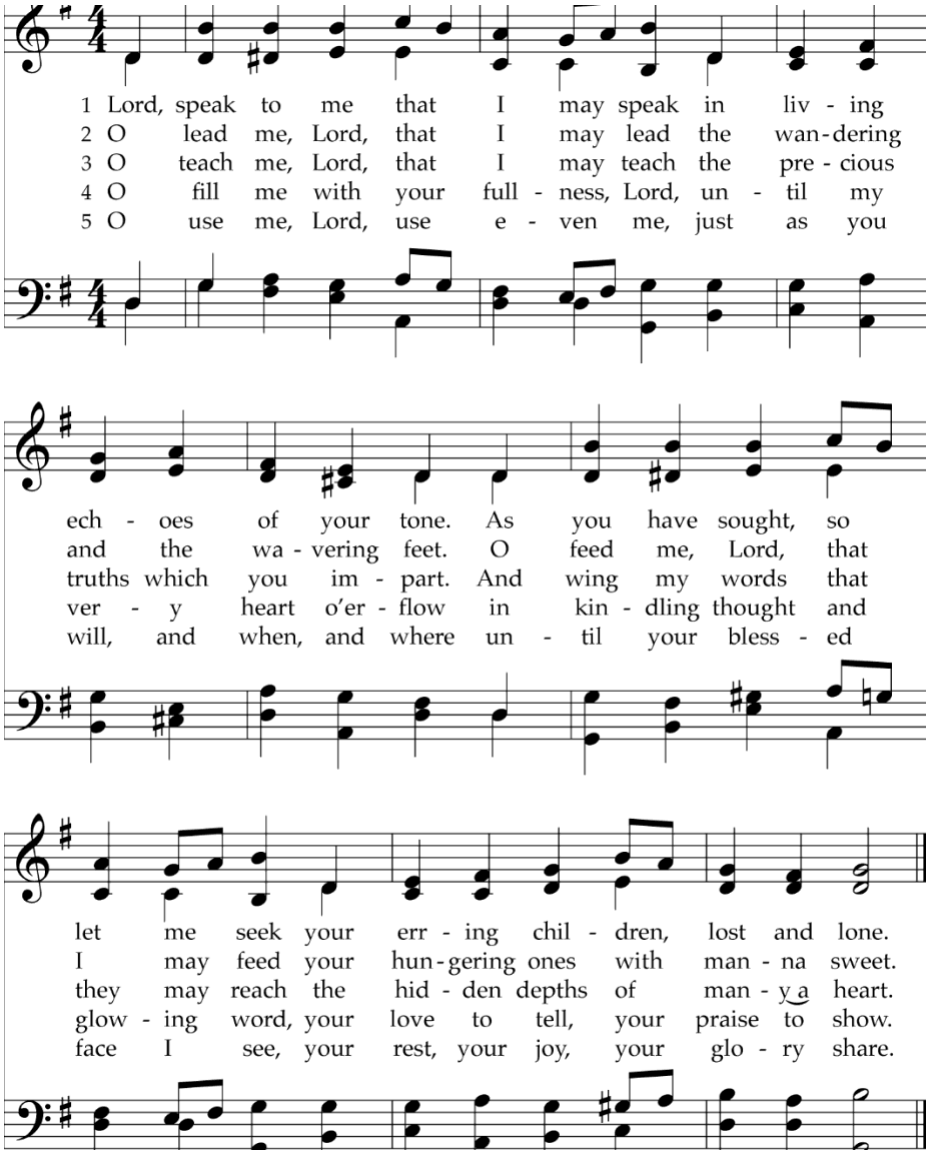
Second Reading John 9:13-25 (NLT) Dr. Hull

Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them. Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, “What’s your opinion about this man who healed you?” The man replied, “I think he must be a prophet.” The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. They asked them, “Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?” His parents replied, “We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don’t know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That’s why they said, “He is old enough. Ask him.” So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, “God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.” “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”

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

Sermon "You, Unedited" Dr. Hull

Hymn 722** ***Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak CANONBURY



***The Affirmation of Faith** *(unison)* Brief Statement of Faith
Rev. Lindsey Odom

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of

Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 *Rejoice, the Lord is King!* arr. Matthew Compton
Chancel Ringers

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
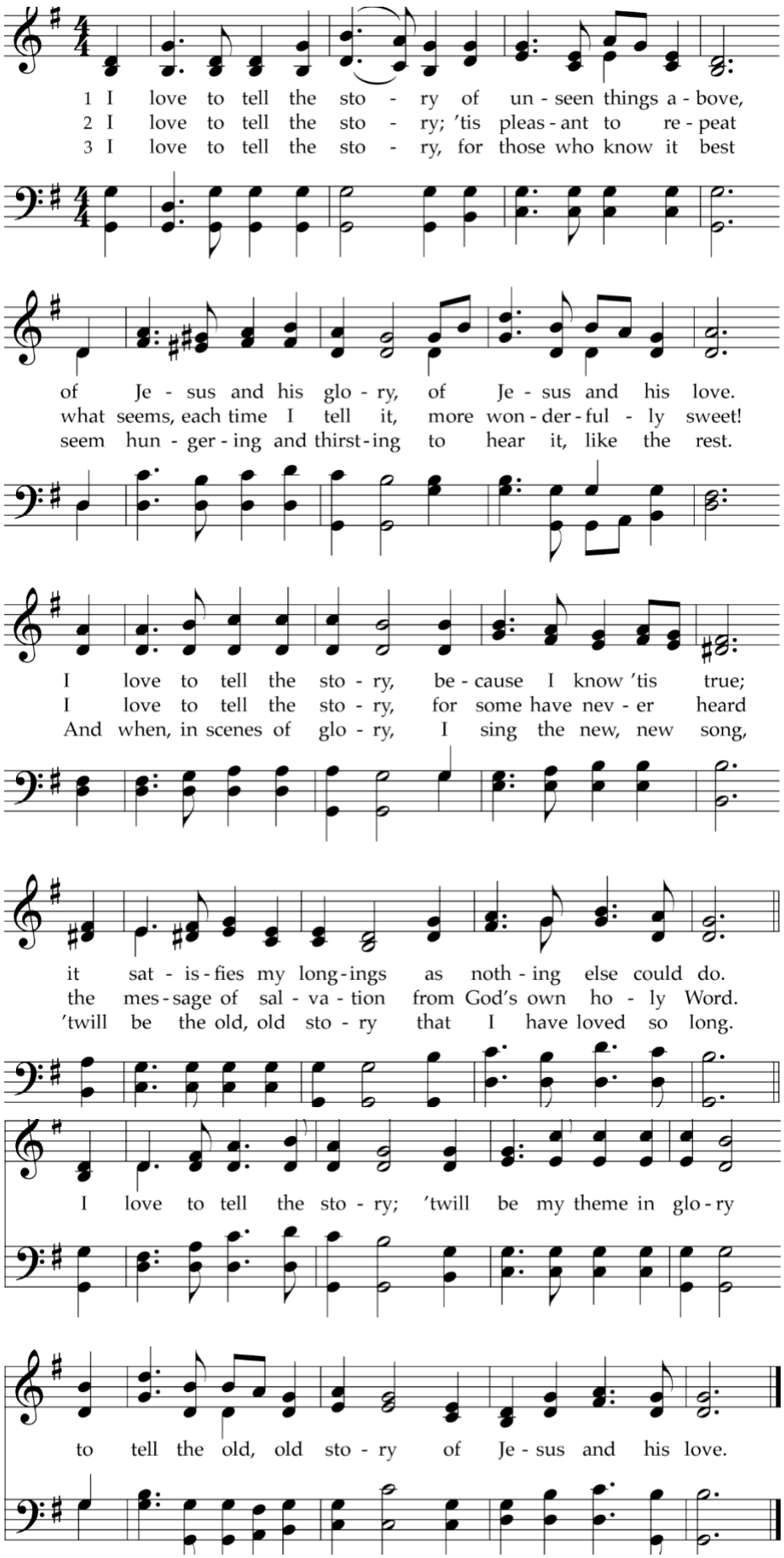
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Caroline Angerer

Creator God, all that we have and all that we are belong to you. Receive our gifts and offerings as an expression of our gratitude, and use them to make room for belonging, nurture hope, and bring new possibilities to life. May all that we give become part of the greater story you are writing through us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 462** ***I Love to Tell the Story HANKEY


1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best
of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.
I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,
it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

***Charge and Benediction** Dr. Hull

***Benediction Response**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again William Tomer

Postlude *Fanfare on an Original Theme* Gilbert Martin

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; Blythe Kinsey, piano
Chancel Ringers
Caroline Angerer, Ben Cassell, liturgists

Acolytes: Madelyn Gaul, Maddie Slagle
A/V Team: Dylan Booker, Chris Wilcox
Ushers: Bob Cushman, Mitchell Davis, Dick Engle, Curtis Guy, Curt Ireland, Carol Watkins
Welcome Team: Elizabeth Rose, Harrison Rose, Lydia Rose, William Rose

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 November 11, 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
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Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music
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Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
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Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
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Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director
tammy@smpchome.org
Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator
mkzagora@smpchome.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: Closed

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Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian; Instagram: @southmeckpres

SMPC WEEKLY

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, NOVEMBER 15

2027 Stewardship - *God Is Doing A New Thing*

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

Thank you to the 247 families who have made a financial commitment to support our 2027 Stewardship campaign, *God Is Doing A New Thing*! To date, pledges and gifts total 94% of our 2027 asking budget. Our goal is for 300 families to support the campaign. There is still time to pledge online via the QR code or by contacting Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org. Thank you for your generosity!

Advent Study: "God's Surprises for the Christmas Season"

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Parlor

Led by Kari Case. All are welcome. *Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org*

DivorceCare's 'Surviving the Holidays'

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. • Chapel 206

This seminar offers community, support and hope. *Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com, or Andrew Metzler, Andrewm1288@gmail.com*

Young Adult Brunch

11:45 a.m. • The Famous Toastery • 8430 Rea Rd • Ages 20s-30s

Fellowship and brunch! *Contact: Chloe Davis, chloedavis870@gmail.com, or Katie Cushman, blue4navy@outlook.com*

All Church Serves: Thanksgiving Meal Kits

5:00-6:00 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall

We will be packing Thanksgiving Meal Kits for families in need at Smithfield and Sterling Elementary. *Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org*

THIS WEEK

Writing Your Story

Monday, Nov.16 • 12:00-2:00 p.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

Led by SMPC member Melinda Ferguson, this six-week group helps participants write the stories they would like to pass down to their families. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Melinda Ferguson, melindaferguson7@gmail.com*

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong

Tuesday, Nov. 17 • 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

SMPC Book Club - Pages and Fellowship

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

Choose from two meeting times! Both groups are reading *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Freda Smith, fredasmithnc8@gmail.com, or Jane Brookshire, jane.t.brookshire@gmail.com*

Pastor's Weekday Bible Study

Wednesday, Nov. 18 • 9:30 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

Everyone is welcome at this weekly study, which is currently focusing on the Sermon on the Mount. *Contact Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org*

SMPC Thursday Mahjong

Thursday, Nov. 19 • 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

Making Space Moms Group - Praying Your Day

Thursday, Nov. 19 • 7:30 p.m. • Room 302

We'll explore simple ways to weave prayer into our everyday routines. Newcomers are always welcome! *Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com*

Friday Morning Men's Group
Friday, Nov. 20 • 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, Nov. 21 • 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

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Adult Advent Study: "God's Surprises for the Christmas Season"
9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room OR 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Parlor
We are offering this study at two different times to make it easier for everyone to participate! Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@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 High School Friendsgiving - GRADES 10-12
5:00-6:30 p.m. • Home of the Davises
SMPC high schoolers in grades 10-12, join us for a special Friendsgiving celebration! Register and find more details on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org*

COMING UP

Bag Lunches for Roof Above SERVE!
Saturday, Nov. 28 • 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

Women's Advent Tea
Saturday, Dec. 5 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 • Mecklenburg Hall
A beloved SMPC Advent tradition! Join us for lunch, tea and a special guest speaker. Bring your favorite tea cup or mug! More details and register via QR code, Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org*

Lunch Bunch Winter Gathering
Tuesday, Dec. 8 • 11:30 a.m. • Burton's at Blakeney
All are invited to join this group for lunch! RSVP via QR code or by emailing Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com, by December 6.

A Caregiver's Journey
Tuesday, Dec. 8 • 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*

Mission Stories: Dorvens Chancy - Part II
Scan the QR code to watch the second in a three-video series with Dorvens Chancy, a graduate of OFCB in Bayonnais Haiti, who now attends Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). Dorvens gives us a glimpse into life as an OFCB student. Stay tuned for the last episode in this series!

Smithfield Elementary Heart Math Tutors Needed SERVE!
The Heart Math program at Smithfield Elementary is seeking additional tutors. Tutors can choose the day (Monday-Thursday), and tutoring hours are 7:55-9:10 a.m.
Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

ADVENT SERVE!
Belk, SouthPark Mall, Saturdays, November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 10:00 am-4:00 pm (two-hour shifts). Scan QR code to sign up. *Contact: Terry Gaines, terryhgaines@gmail.com*