South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Festive Praise* Susan Geschke
Exultate Ringers

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

Introit *Rejoice, the Lord is King!* John Darwall

***Call to Worship** Colin Lee
One: Come, let us worship Christ, our King,
All: whose kingdom is one where the hungry are served first,
One: where the thirsty drink life's water,
All: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope,
One: where the stranger is embraced as a friend.
All: With grateful hearts, we come to worship God.
One: Let us worship the One who calls us to love and serve.

Hymn 268** ***Crown Him with Many Crowns DIADEMATA



Prayer of Confession (unison) Rev. Lindsey Odom

Merciful God, you call us to love our neighbors as you have loved us, yet we confess that we often turn away from those in need. We overlook the hungry, pass by the lonely, and hesitate to welcome those who are different from us. Too often, we allow comfort and convenience to determine how we respond to others. Forgive us when we fail to recognize Christ in the people around us. Open our eyes, soften our hearts, and move us to share your love through compassion and service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace Rev. Odom

One: Hear the good news: the mercy of God is greater than our failures, and the love of Christ calls us into new life. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and renewed to love and serve our neighbors.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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. Listen to a read-aloud of God's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The book imagines God's dream for the world: people sharing, caring for one another, welcoming each other, and remembering that we all belong to God. Which part of God's dream do you like best? Which part do you think is hardest for people to do?
2. Play **"Sheep or Goat?"** Have one person call out different choices: "Share your snack," "Ignore someone who is lonely," "Write a card to someone who is sick," "Keep all the blankets for yourself," "Invite someone to play," "Help collect food for people who are hungry." If the action shows care, move to the **sheep** side of the room. If it does not, move to the **goat** side. Talk about what makes each choice loving or unloving.
3. Make a sheep craft using cotton balls, paper, crayons, or whatever you have on hand. On the sheep, write or draw one thing you can do this week to care for someone else. Put it somewhere you will see it as a reminder to follow Jesus.
4. **Wonder Together:**
   a. I wonder what part of God's dream Jesus describes in Matthew 25.
   b. I wonder which part of God's dream you could help with this week.
   c. I wonder what would change if everyone treated other people the way Jesus describes.
   d. I wonder what God dreams for our church.

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. Odom

First Reading Psalm 146 Rev. Odom

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Anthem *Sing to the King* arr. Mark Hayes

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Sing to the King who is coming to reign.
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.
Life and salvation His empire shall bring,
and joy to the nations when Jesus is King.
Come, let us sing a song,
a song declaring that we belong to Jesus.
He is all we need! Lift up a heart of praise,
sing now with voices raised to Jesus. Sing to the King!
For His returning we watch and we pray.
We will be ready the dawn of that day.
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed,
'cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.
Come, Christians, join to sing, "Alleluia, Amen!"
Loud praise to Christ, our King; "Alleluia, Amen!"
Let all with heart and voice before His throne rejoice.
Praise is His gracious choice; "Alleluia! Amen!"

Second Reading Matthew 25:31-46 Dr. Hull

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and

you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Sermon	"Sorting Livestock"	Dr. Hull
***Hymn 741**	***Guide My Feet*** *(Stanzas 1, 3, 5)*	GUIDE MY FEET



2 Hold my hand …
3 Stand by me …
4 I'm your child …
5 Search my heart …
6 Guide my feet …

***The Affirmation of Faith** *(unison)* Belhar Confession
Rev. Melissa White

We believe:

- **that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among all people;**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged;**
- **that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**
- **that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**
- **that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly.**

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 *Soon and Very Soon* arr. Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir; Festival Musicians; Ann Carney, piano

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King!
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King!
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King!

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** Daniel Lee

Sovereign God, you call us to serve Christ by serving one another. Receive these gifts and use them to bring hope to the forgotten, compassion to the suffering, and justice to the oppressed. By your Spirit, make us faithful servants of your kingdom, where love reigns and all are welcomed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 744** ***Arise, Your Light Is Come! FESTAL SONG



Worshipful Work

***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 *Nun danket alle Gott* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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; Ann Carney, piano;
Festival Musicians: Kyle Gavagan, trumpet; Jordan Booker, tenor saxophone; Mark Janney, guitar
Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano
Colin Lee, Daniel Lee liturgists

Acolyte: Elise Cates

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Dean Elledge, Mary Elledge, Tom Klecker, Charlie Metzler, Jon Myers, Michael Zagora
Welcome Team: Andrew Cassell, Ben Cassell, Cal Cassell, Lauren, Melissa Cassell

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 Belhar Confession was written in South Africa in the 1980s to express the church's opposition to *apartheid.*

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 18, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Cathy Janney as she recovers from 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

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor
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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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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 22

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 260 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 97% 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*

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*

Advent at Home...or the Car!

This Advent, we're inviting households to explore the Christmas story together! *Advent at Home...or the Car!* features seven interactive Bible stories with scripture recordings, music, discussion questions, artwork, prayer and optional coloring pages. Stop by the narthex to pick up a festive cup with a hot chocolate packet and QR code linking to our interactive stories!. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

NOMINATION FOR DEACON



Maria Hudson-Davis

Maria Hudson-Davis and her husband, Jeff Davis, joined SMPC in 2007. Maria is an ordained elder and has served on the Session, as well as an ordained deacon who previously served on the Board of Deacons in 2011. She also served as SMPC's Communion Coordinator for several years and spent a year serving on the Charlotte Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM).

Professionally, she works as a nurse with a rheumatology practice in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where she enjoys caring for and supporting others. Maria and Jeff have two daughters, Hiley (24) and Chloe (22), and a beloved standard poodle named Pepper. Maria is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the SMPC family and to continue growing in faith, fellowship, and service.

THANKSGIVING WEEK

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong

Tuesday, Nov. 24 • 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

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, AND THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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. While slots are full until the new year, please consider signing up in January 2027! *Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29

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*

Sign Up for Advent Weekly Devotionals
Written by SMPC members and staff and illustrated by SMPC children, subscribers will receive SMPC Advent Devotionals in their email inbox daily beginning Sunday, November 29! Subscribe via the QR code. *Contact: Terry Gaines, terryhgaines@gmail.com*

COMING UP

Women's Advent Tea
Saturday, Dec. 5 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall
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*

Parent's Night Out...and Children's Christmas Party
Saturday, Dec. 5 • 4:00-7:00 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall • Ages 3-5th Grade
Children will enjoy dinner, games and playtime, Christmas crafts, the Christmas story, and maybe even a short Christmas movie. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org*

Alternative Gift Market
Sunday, Dec. 6 • 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. • Narthex
Agencies will be at the church to share more information on how your donation can help those in need. Online shopping coming soon. *Contact: Heather Carpenter, heathercarpenter1@yahoo.com, or Leanne Royster, leanneroyster@gmail.com*

Third Thirty
Sunday, Dec. 6 • 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall • Ages 60-90
Learn about the most common scams, discuss tips to protect yourself from scams and fraud, and find out how to get help if you have been the victim of a scam or fraud. Register on Realm by December 3 so that leaders can order the appropriate number of lunches. *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 III
Scan the QR code to watch the last in a three-video series with Dorvens Chancy, a graduate of OFCB in Bayonnais Haiti, who now attends Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). Dorvens dives deeper on what life is like as a student in Haiti. It's a must-watch!

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*