South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Variations on "Dix"* David Lasky

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**
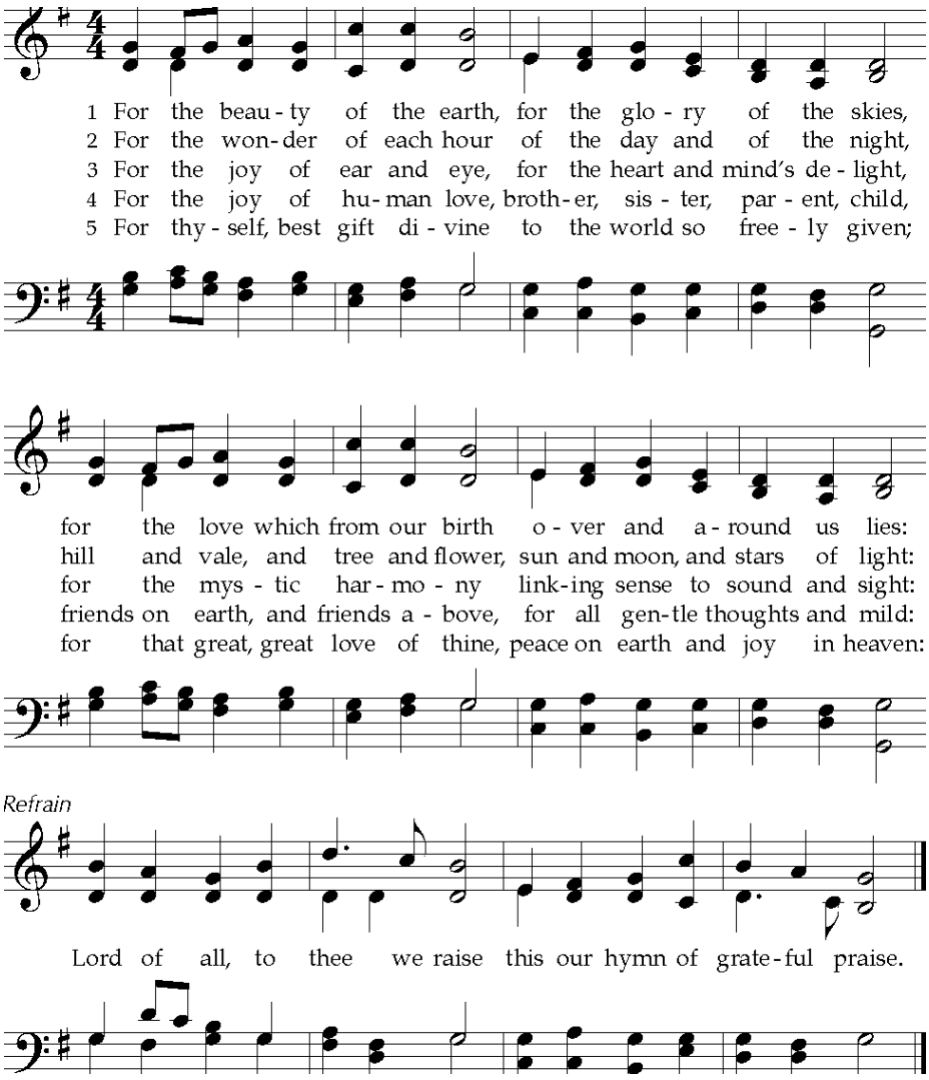
Moment for Mission Manny Villa

Introit *Rain Down* Jaime Cortez

***Call to Worship** Bergen Kasmer

One: God has given us work to do.
All: God has called each of us before we were born.
One: It is God who names us.
All: It is God who claims us.
One: The light of God's love shines in us.
All: Let's shine God's love into the world. Amen.

Hymn 14** ***For the Beauty of the Earth DIX



Prayer of Confession (unison) Rev. Lindsey Odom

Merciful God, in baptism you have named us, claimed us, and called us your beloved children. Yet we confess that we often live as though we have been forgotten. We allow fear and doubt to overshadow your promises and seek our worth in the approval of others rather than in your love. Forgive us when we forget whose we are and fail to recognize your beloved children in those around us. Remind us that we are forever held in your steadfast love and renew us to live as people who belong to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace Rev. Odom

One: Hear the good news: God has not forgotten us! Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and held forever in God's steadfast love. Friends, believe in the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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. Listen to a read-aloud of *The Kissing Hand*. Chester is worried about being away from his mother, so she gives him a way to remember that her love goes with him wherever he goes. Paul gives us a similar promise in Romans: nothing can separate us from God's love. What helps you remember that someone loves you even when you are apart? *Story connection adapted from Noell Rathbun at Storypath.*
2. Read Shel Silverstein's poem "Whatif". The poem names all kinds of worries—some serious and some silly.
3. After each "What if?" line, answer together: **"Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God."** Then think of some of your own "what if" worries and answer those the same way.
4. Make a **Nothing Can Separate Us** paper chain. On one side of each paper strip, write or draw something that can make you worried, afraid, lonely, or sad. Turn the strip over and write **GOD'S LOVE** in big letters. Make each strip into a link and connect them together. When the chain is finished, notice that every worry is surrounded by the reminder that nothing can separate us from God's love.
5. **Wonder Together:**
   a. I wonder what helps us remember God's love when we are worried.
   b. I wonder why Paul wanted people to know that nothing could separate them from God.
   c. I wonder what "what if" worries you would add to the list.
   d. I wonder how we can remind someone else that God has not forgotten them.

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.
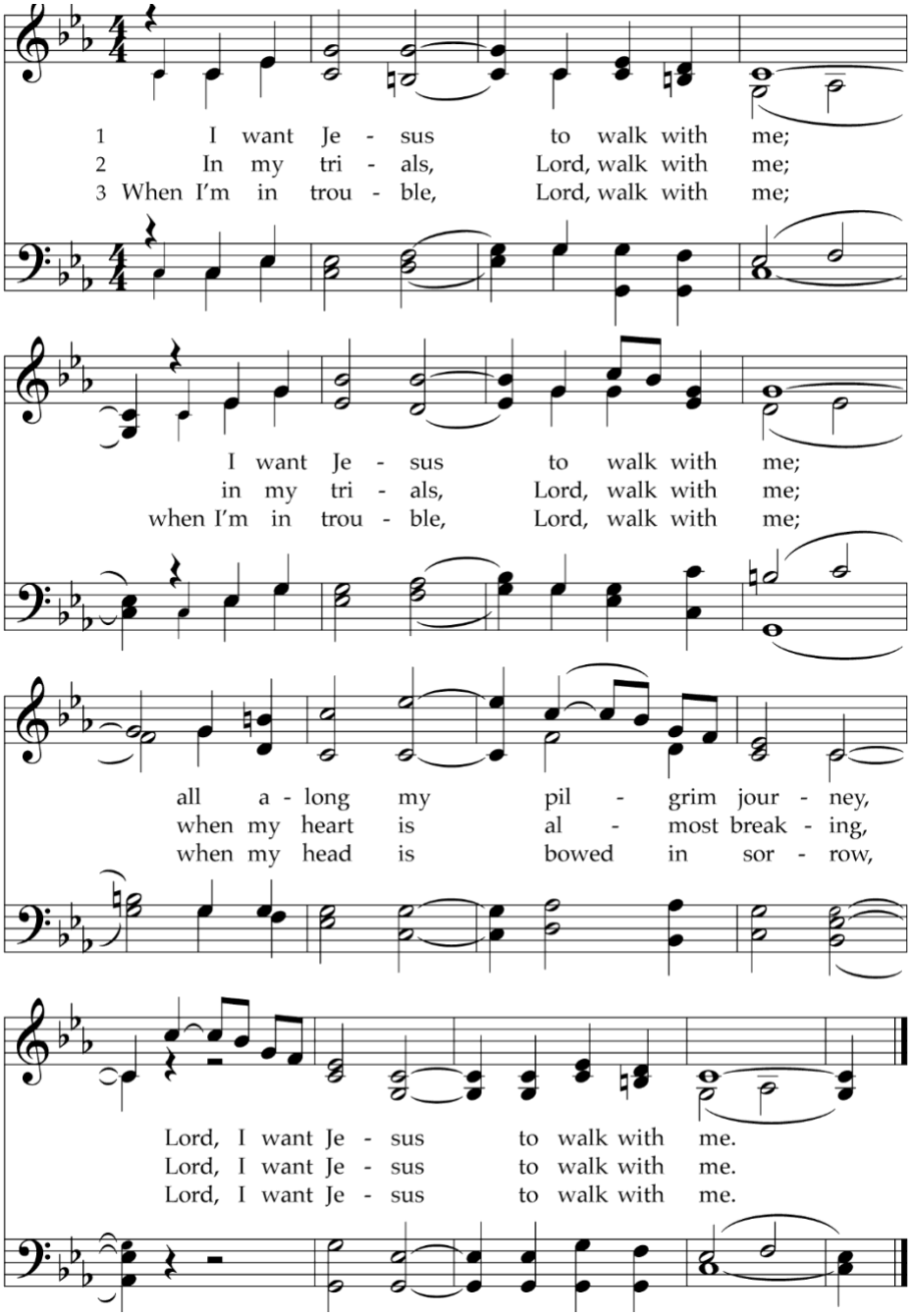
The children will return to join their families during the Offertory.

Prayer for Illumination Rev. Odom

First Reading Romans 8:31-39 Rev. Odom

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn 775** ***I Want Jesus to Walk with Me WALK WITH ME



Second Reading Isaiah 49:15-16 Dr. Hull

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

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

Sermon "Has God Forgotten You?" Dr. Hull

Anthem *Come By Here* arr. Kyle Pederson

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.
Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.

Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.
In the morning, Lord… in the evening, Lord…
In my waking, Lord… in my sleeping, Lord…
In my pleading, Lord… waking, caring, Lord…
In my loving, blessing, grieving, hoping…
In my longing, falling, hiding, rising, Lord…
In my healing, aching, laughing, praising, Lord…
In my seeking, finding, breathing, dying, Lord, you are here.
Come by here, my Lord, come by here. O Lord, you are here.

***The Affirmation of Faith** *(unison)* Heidelberg Catechism
Rev. Melissa White

One: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?
All: My only comfort, in life and in death, is that I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself, but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* arr. James Curnow
Kyle Gavagan, trumpet

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.
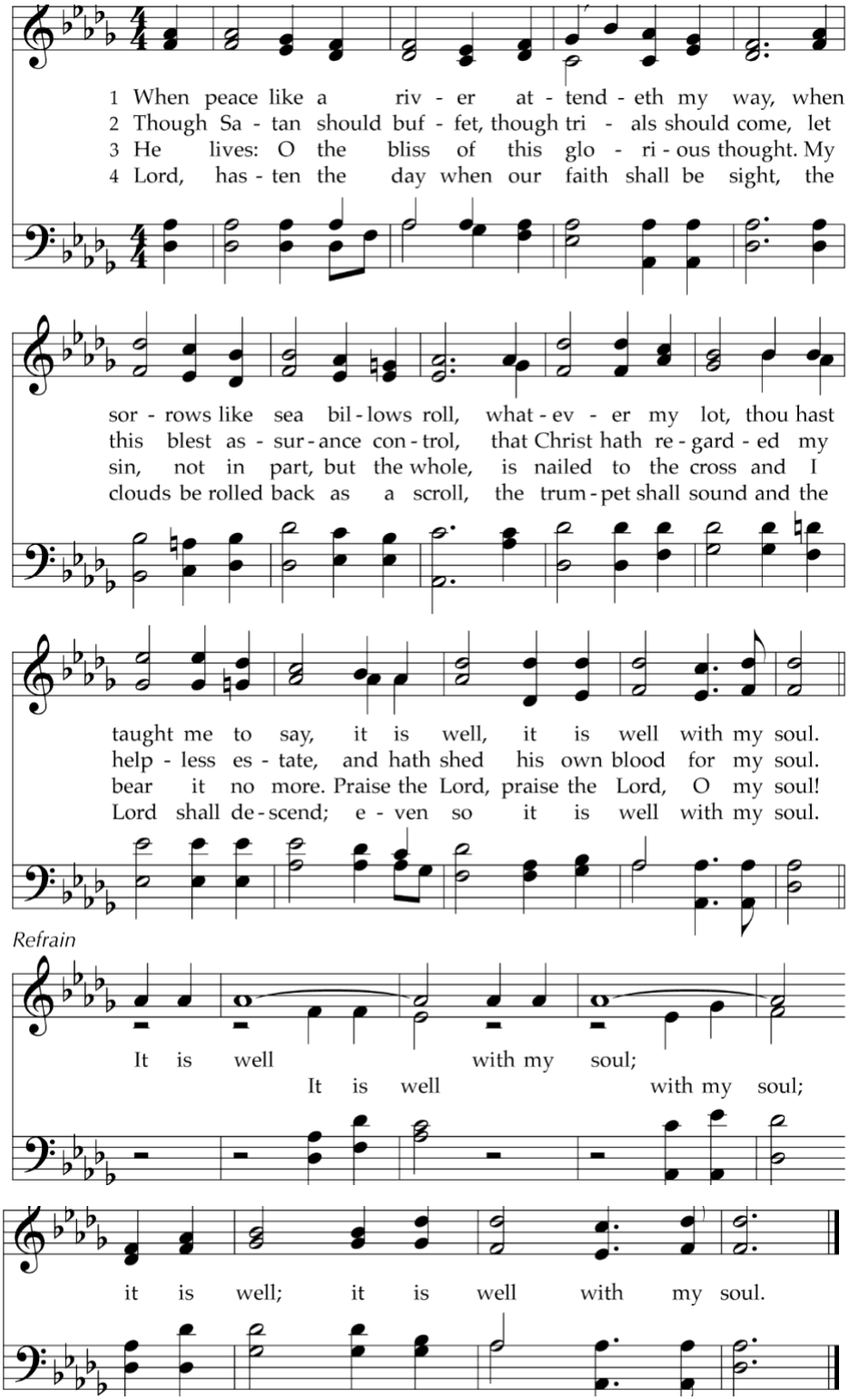
***Doxology** Hymn 606

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**
Faithful God, all that we have comes from you. Receive these gifts and use them to share your love, serve our neighbors, and bear witness to your grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 840** ***When Peace like a River VILLE DU HAVRE



***Charge and Benediction** Dr. Hull

***Congregational Response** Hymn 80

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before 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 *Voluntary on "Hymn to Joy"* Michael Burkhardt

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
Kyle Gavagan, trumpet
Bergen Kasmer, liturgist

Acolyte: Sacha Palmer, Taika Palmer
A/V Team: Brad Alford
Ushers: Andy Burke, Andrew Gaul, Tim Maguire, Craig Parrish, Nancy Parrish, Tom Schorr
Welcome Team: Cassidy Buford, Erin Cook, Frank Graham, Jackson Vechnak, Amy Zagora

Part One of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the Book of Confessions, comprising twelve faith statements from many places and many times in the history of the Christian Church. The Heidelberg Catechism was composed in sixteenth-century Germany to help unify Lutheran Christians and Reformed Christians.

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 4, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Pat Young and her family as her brother, Howard Glidewell, entered the Church triumphant on October 30.
- Don Ayers as he recovers from surgery.
- Dylan Booker as he recovers from surgery.
- Rusty Carson as he 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
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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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 8

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)

If you missed Commitment Sunday, you can mail your pledge card to the church office or pledge online via the QR. Thank you for your generosity!

Believing and Belonging

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

For those interested in learning more about SMPC and the Presbyterian Church. Register on Realm or by emailing Melissa White, melissa@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 PJs and Pancakes

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

November BYG (Big Youth Group) with a sweet twist! Wear your PJs and enjoy delicious pancakes. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org*

THIS WEEK

Writing Your Story

Monday, Nov. 9 • 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. 10 • 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, Nov. 10 • 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, Nov. 10 • 7:30 p.m. • Chapel 206

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays. They will begin studying *How God Makes Men* by Patrick Morley. New faces are always welcome! *Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com*

Pastor's Weekday Bible Study

Wednesday, Nov. 11 • 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*

Shelter Ministry

Thursday, Nov. 12 • 9:30 a.m. • Mecklenburg Hall

Fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Body wash and Rx vials are always needed. *Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@gmail.com*

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, Nov. 12 • 9:30 a.m. • Big View Diner

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays to enjoy breakfast and conversation.
Contact: Bob Tyler, btyler@unitedskates.com

SMPC Thursday Mahjong
Thursday, Nov. 12 • 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

SMPC Book Club - Pages and Fellowship
Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m. OR 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*

Hops and Vine Around Town
Saturday, Nov. 14 • 4:00-6:00 p.m. • Harris Teeter - Rea Farms
Fun and fellowship! All are welcome. *Contact: Frank Graham, frank.graham@us.forvismazars.com*

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Adult Advent Study: "God's Surprises for the Christmas Season" NEW!
Sunday, Nov. 15 • 9-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room OR 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Parlor
We are offering the same study at two times so that more people can participate! Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. *Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org*

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*

All Church Serves: Thanksgiving Meal Kits
Sunday, Nov. 15 • 5:00-6:00 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall
We will be packing Thanksgiving Meal Kits for families in need at Smithfield and Sterling Elementary. Register on Realm or via QR code.
Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

COMING UP

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

Mission Stories: Dorvens Chancy
Scan QR code to watch the first in a three-video series introducing Dorvens Chancy, a graduate of OFCB in Bayonnais Haiti, who now attends Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). With travel to Haiti presenting significant challenges, we hope these personal glimpses bring us closer to our mission partners in Bayonnais. Stay tuned this month for the next two episodes to learn more about the school setting and educational approaches at OFCB.

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*