

ADVENT 2026

SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Photo credit: Becca Rouse Photography

FROM DR. SANDY HULL

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT." (ROMANS 15:13)

Dear Members & Friends of SMPC,

Advent is the season of hope. Hope, very simply, is the conviction, against all odds, that the way things are now is not the way things will always be. Basketball coach Dawn Staley's autobiography has a chapter entitled, "God Bats Last." In other words, it's not over until God has finished working.

Crushing despair was rampant in the years leading up to Jesus' birth. The people of Israel were scratching out a subsistence living under brutal Roman occupation, all the while fearful of the paranoid local tyrant, Herod. They were indeed "the people who walked in darkness" (Isaiah 9:2). But God hadn't finished working, and the great light of God's promised redeemer was about to shine forth.

Is there a situation in your life that seems hopeless? Is there a situation in the world that seems hopeless? May we know the gift of hope from the God of hope, clinging to the assurance that God is still at work. And may we also "overflow with hope" as our lives infuse those around us with the courage to keep on keeping on.

This fall we have been celebrating the new thing God is doing at SMPC (Isaiah 43:19). In Advent we prepare to celebrate God's ultimate new thing—becoming human to walk among us and die and rise again for our salvation. In this Advent season, let us refuse to be too busy to focus on this good news, even as we open ourselves afresh to God's new thing in our congregation. And in all things, let us hold fast to hope. God bats last!

Grace and Peace,

Sandy Hull

Advent & Christmas at SMPC
smpchome.org/advent

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AT 10:10 AM IN THE SANCTUARY OR VIA LIVESTREAM AT SMPCHOME.ORG
FACEBOOK: @SOUTHMECKLENBURGPRESBYTERIAN OR INSTAGRAM: @SOUTHMECKPRES

ADVENT AT HOME...OR IN THE CAR!



This Advent, we're inviting households to explore the Christmas story together! *Advent at Home* features seven interactive Bible stories with scripture recordings, music, discussion questions, artwork, prayer and optional coloring pages. Each story takes 15 minutes or less and can be enjoyed at home, in the car, or whenever it fits your schedule.

Beginning November 22, stop by the narthex to pick up a festive cup with a hot chocolate packet and a QR code linking to our interactive stories! You can also get started right away by scanning the QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

MAKE SOME NOISE FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Saturdays, November 28, December 5, 12 & 19, Slots from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM - Join SMPC in supporting the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign by serving as a bell ringer at Belk, SouthPark Mall. Sign up at smpchome.org/advent.



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

A six-week study
Sundays, beginning
November 15, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
McQueen Room/Zoom OR
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Parlor

Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events

Women's Advent Tea



MUSIC, MEDITATION,
SPICED TEA, LUNCH, SWEETS

Saturday, December 5
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Mecklenburg Hall
Register by Saturday, November 28 on Realm or via QR code

SIGN UP FOR DAILY ADVENT 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.

FESTIVAL of CAROLS
The Songs of Christmas

Sunday, December 13
5:00-6:15 PM

A special worship service led by the SMPC Music Ministry. Music enhanced with scripture. Childcare provided.

AN UPDATE FROM THE MISSION STUDY TASK FORCE

In this season of hopeful anticipation, it feels right to give a progress update on the highly anticipated Mission Study Report. This report is a critical input in our search for a new Senior Pastor. SMPC's Mission Study Task Force remains hard at work, focused on three fundamental questions:

- Who is SMPC today?
- Who is our neighbor?
- Who is God calling us to be in the future?



Since May, the Task Force has met regularly to reflect and listen - to you and to God. We've analyzed survey results from 480 congregants, hosted 12 listening sessions, reviewed external reports and reflected together in prayer.

With your feedback in mind, we are focusing on the following areas as we look to the future:

- Meaningful relationships and connections
- Spiritual vitality
- Theological diversity
- Service and outreach

We have begun to draft the report and will share it with the congregation soon. Thank you for your patience, prayers and support.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Hobby or Walton Price, co-chairs of the Mission Study Task Force, smpccatsurvey@gmail.com.

REACH OUT!



If it's been a while since you've seen someone at church, we encourage you to reach out and check in with them! Sometimes a call or text from an old friend is exactly what they need to brighten their day!

For assistance finding contact information or navigating Realm, contact Adrienne Jaquith in the church office, adrienne@smpchome.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ADVENT ADULT BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAYS, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 15, 9:00-10:00 AM MCQUEEN ROOM/ZOOM OR 11:15 AM-12:15 PM, PARLOR

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE RINGING AT BELK, SOUTHPARK
SATURDAYS, NOVEMBER 28, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19
10:00 AM-4:00 PM (TWO-HOUR SHIFTS)

WOMEN'S ADVENT TEA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, MECK HALL

PARENTS NIGHT OUT (FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 AND UP)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 4:00-7:00 PM, MECK HALL

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, NARTHEX

BAM! BIBLE AND MUSIC
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 5:00-6:30 PM, PALMER BLDG, K-5TH GRADE

BYG (BIG YOUTH GROUP) & CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 5:00-6:30 PM, MECK HALL, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS

ANGEL TREE DONATIONS DUE TO THE CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS - "THE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS"
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 5:00-6:15 PM, SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

THE LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 5:30 PM, CHAPEL

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 5:00 PM, HOME OF THE LACKEYS

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, 3:00 PM (FAMILY), 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM (CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, SANCTUARY AND LIVESTREAM

SMPC PRESCHOOL TOURS AVAILABLE



SMPC Preschool registration for the 2027-2028 school year begins in January, but you can schedule your tour now! A tour is required before registration. SMPC Preschool is a warm, play-based preschool program for ages 2-TK that makes learning FUN. To schedule, please contact Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director, tammy@smpchome.org.

South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8601 Bryant Farms Road
Charlotte, NC 28277
Return Service Requested

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CHARLOTTE, NC

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



3:00 PM - FAMILY SERVICE
5:00 PM - CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION
(Youth and Chancel Choirs)
7:00 PM - CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION
(Chancel Choir and special guest musicians)

YOU are welcome!

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smpchome.org/advent

South Meck Press is a quarterly publication from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. For more worship, study, and fellowship opportunities, please visit smpchome.org.