

SMPC Now

Thursday, September 24, 2020

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH A TRYING TIME

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands." - Psalm 138:8

My first thought as I came across this text and then looked in the mirror was that God was having a bad day at pottery class; as though the Divine Potter was only going to put so much effort into Missouri, and his Brad Pitt assignment was due soon. Yet, the Psalmist's prayer proffers the ennobling thought that each of us bears the signature of the Creator. You may not want to mention that to those who've always assumed they possess exclusive rights to the claim. After all, in this same psalm, it is written, "For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away." I'd love to get some advice from the Lord on how to manage that. There are certainly some blustering voices of arrogance that I'd rather perceive from far away!

And yet, for the majority of folks slogging through bog or fog or both, the reminder that you are never anything less than the work of God's hands is received as a word of profound encouragement. You are unique, positioned with purpose, a work in progress that God will bring to completion.

**Grace and Peace,
Matt**



Dr. Matt Brown,
matt@smpchome.org

WORSHIP MINISTRY

TONIGHT!

Bring your lawn chair, set up in the designated area in front of the Sanctuary steps, and join us for a short worship service tonight at 7:00! We hope to see you here!

We have a sound system in place so everyone can hear!



MUSIC MINISTRY



YOUTH BOOMWHACKERS

**Sundays, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., The Commons
Middle & High School Youth**

Youth Boomwhackers is replacing Youth Handbells and Youth Choir this fall, and will rehearse with masks while practicing social distancing.

Boomwhackers Tuned Percussion Tubes are lightweight, hollow, colorcoded, plastic tubes, tuned to musical pitches by length. Boomwhackers produce musical tones when struck together, on the floor, or against nearly any surface.



VIRTUAL CHOIRS CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

There will be many opportunities over the Fall and Christmas for singers of all ages to sing in a virtual choir.

Please email Zach Bowyer as soon as possible if you are interested in participating.

CHANCEL RINGERS

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

This adult choir continues to meet in the Sanctuary while practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Anyone with an interest in handbells is welcome to sit in on a rehearsal.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

Children!

**Be sure to check your email on Saturday mornings
for resources for parents to use with children on
Sunday mornings!**

If you are not receiving the emails, please contact Rebecca Guzman.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SUPPLIES FOR SEPTEMBER 27

Paper

Pencil

Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils

Thin Tissue

Water

Small Plastic Toys



Family, Faith, & Fellowship

Sunday, October 4, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Outdoors, SMPC Campus

[CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO SIGN UP!](#)



This fall, we are providing families with resources to do faith at home. On Sunday, October 4, we will have an outdoor, socially-distanced event for families with children 5th grade and under. This will happen at the same time as BYG to make it as easy as possible for you! At the event, you will receive your Faith at Home kit, learn how to use your Faith at Home kit, and have some socially-distanced fellowship with other families. The Faith at Home kit will have EVERYTHING you need for the remaining weeks in the month, and there will be a companion video (optional) that will guide you through the story and activities each week. The goal is for this to be as EASY and STRESS-FREE as possible for parents, while being engaging for kids.

You must sign up for both the kit and the event on Church Life. You can sign up to receive a kit even if you will not be at the event.

REGISTER NOW!



WOMEN'S
DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

CLICK ABOVE TO REGISTER!

**Saturday, October 10
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
SMPC Campus**

Women of all ages are invited to gather for an on-campus, socially distanced event. We will worship, have prayer stations, participate in a mission project, and conclude with a boxed lunch.

Please bring an outdoor chair (we will have extras!) and wear a mask.

In case of rain, we will move the event inside.

Sign up on [Church Life](#) by Monday, October 5.

[Contact Rebecca Guzman with any questions!](#)



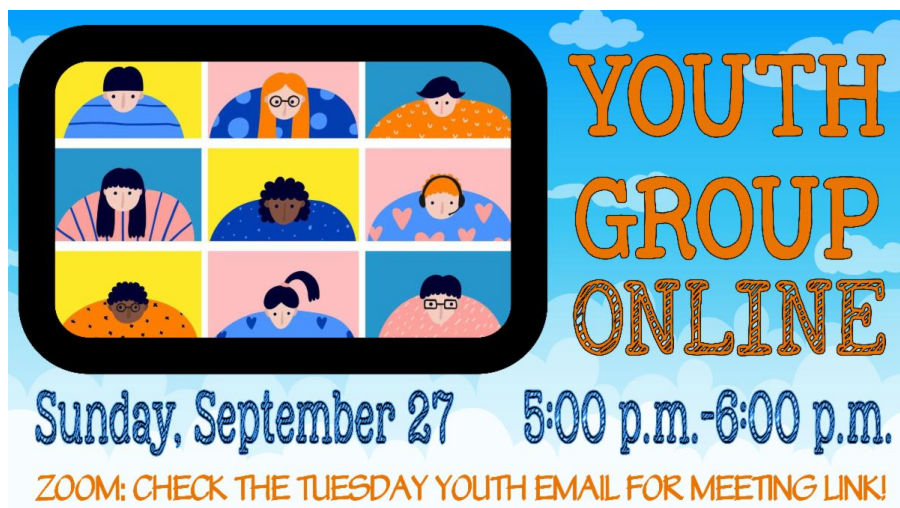
Parents Take 5

[CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO SIGN UP FOR ALERTS!](#)

Parents of children and youth will enjoy a pop-up Zoom gathering at 8:30 p.m. on various weeknights. Our first will be Wednesday, September 9. We will do the Faith Five together: share highs and lows, read a scripture, talk about the scripture, share prayer requests, and end with a blessing. Check SMPC Now and our Facebook page to make sure you don't miss it! This is intended to be a time for parents to decompress, and there is no preparation, homework, or stress. Sign up on Church Life to receive a text alert/reminder.

[Questions? Contact Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl, \[jessica@SMPChome.org\]\(mailto:jessica@SMPChome.org\)](#)

YOUTH MINISTRY



MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

**South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church Missions-Outreach Ministry
invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:**

Town Hall Forum with Actionnel Fleurisma



**Sunday, September 27
1:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86907617535?pwd=Vkh1dXVYa3FWV2JNOWZka1hUNC9pZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0761 7535

Passcode: 314701

Questions? Contact Kyle Smith, ksmith@helenadamsrealty.com.

HALLELUJAH FOR HAITI September 18-27

Hallelujah for Haiti is a virtual fundraising event hosted by Friends Empowering Haiti, formerly FOFCB.

Their mission is to raise awareness and generate financial support for the fine people of Bayonnais, Haiti. In doing so, we will continue to foster education, care for the sick and feed the hungry.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE RAFFLE LINK!](#)

[CLICK THE EVITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUNDRAISER AND RSVP!](#)

[LEARN MORE AND DONATE HERE:](#)

<https://m.facebook.com/events/276056880339272>

Contact Kyle Smith, ksmith@helenadamsrealty.com.



[CLICK HERE FOR A MAP AND PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS!](#)

SMALL GROUPS AND MEETUPS



Sit & See

Interested in joining a small, informal, socially-distanced gathering outside on SMPC's campus?

Contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

Coffee Grounds Online

Sunday, September 27, 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Zoom

After streaming our worship service live, join in on Zoom to see familiar faces and perhaps meet someone new.

Contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org for the Zoom ID#.



Ballantyne Business Group

Wednesday, October 7, Noon, Zoom

Join this informal group on first and third Wednesdays for lunch and thoughtful discussion on a variety of topics.

Contact David Huss, david.huss@allentate.com, to participate!



Dr. Matt Brown's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., Zoom

An exploration of the scripture for the coming week's sermon.

Contact Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org for the Zoom link.

If your SMPC Small Group or MeetUp would like to host a ZOOM online meeting, or a socially-distanced gathering on SMPC's campus, please contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection.

Also, if you are interested in formally joining the SMPC family, Nancy would love to speak with you!



Nancy Metzler

*Director of Hospitality
& Connection*

nancy@smpchome.org

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS

September 2020

The Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying potential candidates for the new classes of Elders and Deacons and we would like your input.

If you would like to suggest the name of any church member for consideration for the office of Elder or Deacon, please click the link below to complete the form. You may also email your nomination to one of the Nominating Committee members:

Meghan Bartholomew, co-chair - daveandmeghan@windstream.net
Andrew Brown, co-chair - brown.andrew.richard@gmail.com
Daniel Bayer - danielbayer05@gmail.com
Jimmy Galati - jamesgalati63@yahoo.com
Lisa Kuszmar - lisa.kuszmar@amwins.com
Amy Latzke - agramsey@gmail.com
Bill Ramsey - bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com

We need all names submitted by Sunday, September 27 so the Nominating Committee can proceed with its work.

Four elders and six deacons will be elected in the October Congregational meeting to serve a three-year term beginning January, 2021.

If you would like to suggest the name of any church member(s) who you feel possesses the necessary qualities and gifts for this office please write that name(s) on the space provided on this form.

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

FINANCE MINISTRY

A detailed financial update of SMPC's Operating Fund, our Paycheck Protection Program loan, and the Preschool and a full report from our Funds Management committee is available by clicking here.

STAYING CONNECTED

SMPC STAFF EMAILS:

Once again, fraudulent emails are circulating with the sender posing as Dr. Matt Brown.

Please know that the pastors and staff of SMPC will never contact you by email asking for "favors" or your personal information.

To stay safe, always make sure that emails claiming to be from SMPC staff have the "@smpchome.org" address after the name before opening. Thank you!



Seasons
of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

FALL 2020

I saw a meme this week that said if 2020 was a bag of potato chips, it would be orange juice and toothpaste flavored. In other words, the year thus far would be gathering dust on the convenience store shelf as we passed on by in search of something a bit more digestible. Yet, the calendar does not permit us a gap year and my favorite parental proverb is being tested to the point of exhaustion: *You can't control what happens to you, but you can have some control over how you respond to it.*

It has not been the year we had planned, but it is the year we have, and so the question before us is, as the British might say, how can we just "get on with it." Winston Churchill is remembered for his ability to stir the heart to tenacity, to resolve. He said, "This is not a time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure;" and also, "Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potential." These words remain wise even when it is not the winds of war that lash us. However, the call to persevere was not original to Churchill. It is intrinsic to the call to discipleship, and certainly a central theme in the witness of Paul, who said, "I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

What is the church to do in a time such as this? Precisely what it has done for 2000 years. For generations, Presbyterians have summarized our calling in this way: "The Great Ends of the Church are (1) the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; (2) the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; (3) the maintenance of divine worship; (4) the preservation of the truth; (5) the promotion of social righteousness; and (6) the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world."

As you peek inside to peruse how we are seeking to be Christ's church this Fall at SMPC, I hope that you will join us as we join with Paul, pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
Matt




Click above to view our Fall 2020 program guide, Seasons!





If you have ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV, you will now find SMPC among the offerings on the BOXCAST channel.

- ◆ Initialize your streaming service.
(ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV)
- ◆ Find BOXCAST in your Channel Store, adding it to your channels.
- ◆ Open the BOXCAST channel, and search for *South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church*.
- ◆ You may watch live or choose past worship services.
- ◆ Using your remote, choose SMPC as a "favorite".



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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www.SMPChome.org



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