



Thursday, October 7, 2021

# SMPC Now

## SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. - 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

### Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable

Is a life defined more by what you acquire or what you give? I don't know if that is a fair question, but it is at least worth a couple of observations. I have known both begrudging givers and generous backsliders over the years, and it would irresponsible, if not impossible, for me to draw any conclusions about how they reflected on their lives. There are universities endowed by individuals reputed to be downright cruel to their own children and there are indulgent parents who never give a thought to offering their children lessons on the significance of generosity.

Life is full of contradictions. I have found that I can covet some indulgence and condemn the extravagance of someone else at the same time. When I observe a particularly ostentatious purchase, I'll cynically whisper to Donna, "I wonder if they tithe?" Yet, that doesn't seem to be a concern when I'm surfing websites and salivating over running shoes or watches. To varying degrees, opportunism and altruism claim real estate within most of us.

However, I have often discovered that the joy of finding that unique and meaningful gift is far more enduring than the caffeine rush of delight that accompanies the latest purchase sitting in my garage or resting on a shelf in my closet. Parents cry at graduations because in that moment they suddenly realize how ridiculous it was to ever question whether the sacrifice was worth it. Joy unspeakable.

Stewardship isn't an annual obligation, it is a way of life, a worldview that sees life as "a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage." (Confession of '67). Helen Keller wrote, "Believe, when you are most unhappy, that there is something for you to do in the world. So long as you can sweeten another's pain, life is not in vain."

Generosity and love are synonymous when love is understood as a verb: Love is self-giving, giving is an offering of self.

Grace and Peace,

Matt



**WORSHIP  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10**

**8:30 a.m., Chapel  
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary**

***Our 10:10 a.m. worship service is also streamed live.***

**In compliance with the current  
mask mandate by the city and county,  
please remain masked indoors.**

**For children's worship,  
children age five and over must mask indoors.**

**When outside, masks are not required.**

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**

**2022 Operating Fund Campaign**

Click the image below to pledge online.

*Pledge packets not previously picked up will arrive in your mailbox this week.*

Please return pledge by Commitment Sunday, October 24.

Questions? Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, [mkzagora@smpchome.org](mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org).



**JOY**  
UNSPEAKABLE,  
**FAITH**  
UNSINKABLE!

**Commitment Sunday**  
**OCTOBER 24**

*Pledge online at*  
*[www.smpchome.org/give](http://www.smpchome.org/give)*

2022 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN  
SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY**





*CLICK HERE FOR WALK DETAILS  
AND A MAP OF OUR ROUTE.*

**NOT A WALKER?  
MANY HANDS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THE DAY A SUCCESS.**

**Please email Bob Cushman or Lindsey Odom to:**

1. Staff the sign-in tent at SMPC. (need 2)
2. Staff the water tent in front of Planet Fitness, Elm Lane. (need 3)

*\*Please note that SMPC's CROP Walk date and location are different from those of the Charlotte CROP Walk.*

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**CANNED GOODS + BOOKS!**



**LOAVES & FISHES**  
Groceries for Neighbors in Need



**PROMISING PAGES**

**+**

**Bags available in the Narthex and Church Office!**

**RETURN BY OCTOBER 31**



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# American Red Cross **BLOOD + DRIVE**

## Saturday, November 6

REGISTER AT [WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG/COMMUNITY](http://WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG/COMMUNITY).

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### Pray for our friends in Haiti.

To send funds to help with disaster relief, make an online donation:

Through SMPC:

*CLICK HERE*

*Selecting fund "Other", including "earthquake" in the memo.*

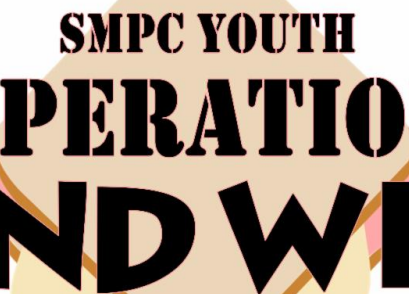
Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

*CLICK HERE*

A primary way to support our efforts in Haiti is to sponsor a child.

*Contact Judy Jones, Contact Judy Jones, [judy21jones@gmail.com](mailto:judy21jones@gmail.com),  
for details., for details.*

### YOUTH MINISTRY



## SMPC YOUTH **OPERATION SANDWICH**

**SUNDAY, 10/10**

**5:00 PM - 6:15 PM**

**CLICK ABOVE TO REGISTER**

**Sandwich supplies needed!**

*Click here to donate!*

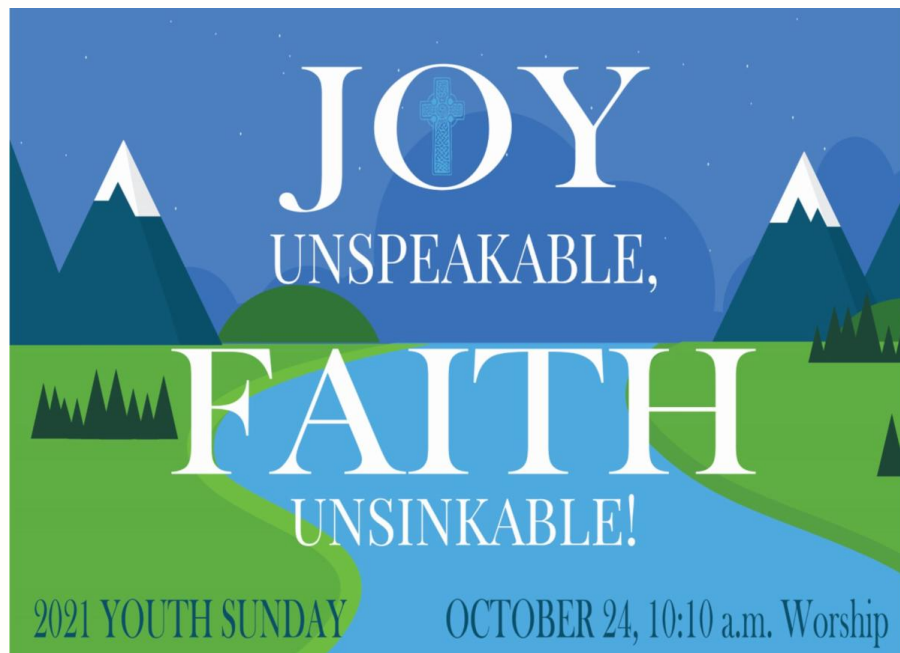




**CLICK ABOVE TO REGISTER**

**Please come join us for a fellowship night of board games, snacks, and S'mores. Bring your favorite board game to share!**

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***Youth Sunday: October 24  
Our youth will lead worship!***

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### **Youth Sunday Donut Fundraiser**

**Order by Sunday, October 17**

**Pick Up Youth Sunday, October 24**

*Purpose: To raise funds for the SMPC Kids for Kids scholarship fund, which helps students attend our summer camps and to help offset the group's summer camp expenses.*



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### TEXT UPDATES

*Sign up for Youth Ministry text reminders by texting  
@SMPCYG to 81010*

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### INSTAGRAM

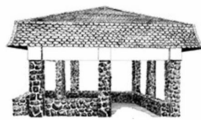
*Follow SMPC Youth Ministry  
on Instagram  
@smpcyouth*

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### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

*It takes many hands to make our  
Youth Ministry gatherings successful!  
SIGN UP TO HERE TO HELP*

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**Massanetta  
Springs**  
CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE: June 16-19, 2022**

Register by Friday, December 31 on Church Life.



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY



**FAITH  
HOUR**

**Faith Hour**



Sunday, October 10  
9:10 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

## Lord's Prayer Stations

These will be set up at 8:30 a.m., and you can come with your family for a sensory Lord's Prayer prayer station experience.

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10**

**AGES 4 – 5TH GRADE**

**5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

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**We are so excited that acolytes are serving in worship again!**

If you have not been an acolyte before, make sure to schedule a training session with Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).

*All acolytes, please check our training video **HERE** as a refresher on what to do.*

***CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP TO BE AN ACOLYTE!***



## SMALL GROUPS AND MEET-UPS

### All Things Considered

**Sundays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Zoom**

Study: *The Wired Word*, a curriculum that links current events to appropriate Scripture. Because the topic changes weekly, depending on what's happening in the world, this is a perfect class for folks who can't commit to coming every week. Please contact Rebecca Guzman to be added to the





weekly email with the topic and zoom information.

Contact Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org), for the Zoom ID#.

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**C.A.R.E.**  
**Conversation Around Race Equity**  
**Sunday, October 17, 4:00 p.m. &**  
**Monday, October 18, 12:00 p.m.**

A new C.A.R.E. group will be starting soon, please contact Rev. Whitney Bayer if you are interested in joining.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Sunday, November 14, 4:00 p.m. & Monday, November 15, 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. & Monday, December 13, 12:00 p.m.

*Led by: Rev. Whitney Bayer and Rev. Diane Giannola*

*Email Rev. Whitney Bayer, [whitney@smpchome.org](mailto:whitney@smpchome.org), for the Zoom ID#.*

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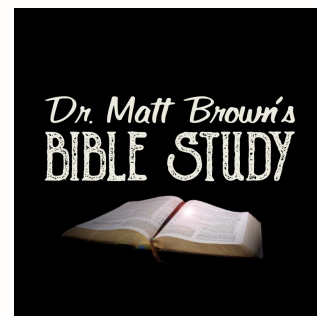
**C.A.R.E.**  
Conversation Around  
Race Equity

**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 Dr. Matt Brown, [matt@smpchome.org](mailto:matt@smpchome.org), for the Zoom ID#.

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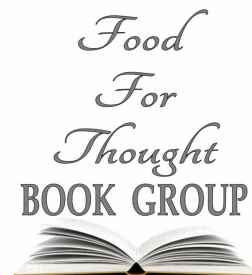
**Food for Thought Book Group**  
**Thursday, October 7, 6:30 p.m., SMPC**

Theme: Substance Abuse Prevention Month  
Book: *Before I Let You Go* by Kelly Rimmer

Click the image link for this year's schedule and reading list. (The 2021-2022 Reading List is also available!)

Contact Kathy Paquette, [khesspaquette@aol.com](mailto:khesspaquette@aol.com), for the Zoom ID#.

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## The Joy Class

Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Zoom



Study: *First Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God* by Jaime Clark-Soles. This class is open to all and always enjoys new faces.

Contact Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org), for the Zoom ID#.



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 at [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).

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

### HOSPITALITY & CONNECTION MINISTRY

*Hospitality:  
the generous reception of guests, visitors, or strangers.*

As part of SMPC's ministry of hospitality, we want to make sure everyone feels welcomed and at home as they worship with us on Sunday mornings. If you'd like to help, consider joining SMPC's Welcome Team. It's simple: arrive a little early, grab a spot near a door, smile and say hello.

Contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).



Register on Church Life or contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection at [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).

### WORSHIP MINISTRY



## Would you like to provide flowers?

The 2021-2022 sign-up calendar to provide flowers for Sunday Worship is available **HERE**.

*You may provide your own arrangement, have a florist supply your arrangement, or make a donation to the Sanctuary Building Fund and the Worship Committee will provide the flowers.*

Questions? Contact Karen Malmut, karenmalmut@yahoo.com, 704-591-9496.

## GIVING



## STAYING CONNECTED

**Explore Seasons,  
our 2021 Fall program guide!**

**CLICK THE IMAGE ON THE RIGHT  
TO VIEW!**



FALL 2021

I came across an amusing cartoon this week parodying Da Vinci's Last Supper. Jesus and his disciples are squeezed together on one side of a banquet table like comics stationed on the dais at a comedy roast. Presiding over the meal from the center seat, Jesus speaks, "One of you shall betray me... Four of you shall get book deals." I can imagine that the Jesus who was a friend of sinners and tax collectors offered his share of one-liners as he journeyed through a world so filled with irony and comic misadventure. When I asked our bible study group what they would most want to impart to their children, one common answer was the desire to pass on a sense of humor. Even Herman Melville said that laughter was too scarce a thing, and I don't remember laughing even once when reading Billy Budd!

However, I think W.H. Auden well understood how indispensable humor is to relationship when he said, "Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: all of them make me laugh." When I hear laughter in the hallways of SMPC, my cold little heart is warmed by what such laughter so often signifies, the blooming of connection and community. I can sense the Lord finding joy in the sound of it and joining in the sharing of it. In these pages are highlighted all manner of opportunities for you to discover the connections and relationships that give birth to joy and laughter as we celebrate the incomparable gift of grace God gives us in each other. Joy unspeakable!

Grace and Peace,

*Matt*

Dr. Matt Brown  
matt@smphome.org



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 A.M. - Chapel

10:10 A.M. - Sanctuary

Our 10:10 a.m. service is also live-streamed at [www.smphome.org](http://www.smphome.org), Facebook Live, and the Buxcat App on your television. Children for ages birth-5 years is available during our 10:10 a.m. worship service.



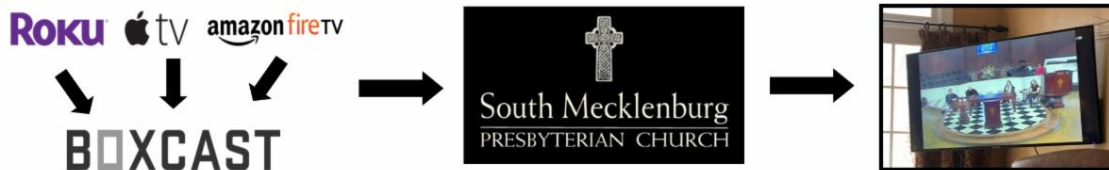
Hi everyone, My name is Lindsey Odom, and I am the new Director of Youth here at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. I am so excited to be joining the community of faith here at SMPC. I have loved my first week in the office learning what my roles and responsibilities will be and working alongside the staff and pastors here. Everyone has been so welcoming, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone and forming relationships with the members of SMPC, especially youth and their families. I cannot wait to nurture youth on their journey of discipleship and help them explore how God is using them to make a difference in the church and in the world. Please welcome Lindsey at [lindsey@smphome.org](mailto:lindsey@smphome.org).

**Visit our Website**



**LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP**  
**SUNDAYS, 10:10 A.M.**

**ON [WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG](http://WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG), THE BOXCAST APP ON YOUR TV,  
AND FACEBOOK LIVE.**



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**

8601 Bryant Farms Road Charlotte, North Carolina 28277 704.544.0404

[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org)

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list!**



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