



Thursday, July 22, 2021

SMPC Now

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"And when you look up to the heavens and see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, do not be led astray and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples everywhere under heaven." - Deuteronomy 4:19

I just haven't been able to get too excited over the slew of reports, interviews, profiles, and videos highlighting the recent race to space tourism, and I certainly haven't started comparing flight options on Expedia. Sure, the investments of Bezos, Branson, and Musk are formidable, and a lot of engineers have done much good and exacting work, but amidst all the preening (Jeff, the cowboy hat and boots were a bit much) and Freudian calculating, I am reminded that on February 22, 1962, John Glenn not only rode his Mercury capsule close to three times higher, but also took it for a quick spin around the earth, not once, but three times! That's almost 60 years ago, when NASA's full computing power was less than the phone from which you probably watched this week's launch.

History will determine whether the billionaire rocket race contributes to the common good or is remembered as a hyper-expensive Disney ride, an ego-fueling witness to conspicuous consumption. Having grown up with a bevy of *James Bond* villains, I must admit to being a bit leery of tycoons tooling around in space. This might be a good week to watch *Moonraker* or *You Only Live Twice*.

To dance on the floor of what we call space, while no small effort, is not a basis for pride, but humility. Discovery does not equal ownership. Keep in mind that while a capsule reached a height of 52 miles, it is roughly 24984157836030.33 miles to Proxima Centauri, the closest star to earth outside of the Sun. The Psalmist says, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" Human claims of dominion are always fraught with peril, typically wrought with unfounded arrogance, and unfailingly impermanent.

As Moses stood atop Mt. Pisgah looking beyond the Jordan into the promised

land, he warned the people to never forget that it was the Lord who formed them, it was the Lord had brought them thus far, and it was the Lord alone who would be their hope in this new land. The pursuit of any self-imagined idol could only be self-destructive. "And when you look up to the heavens and see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, do not be led astray and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples everywhere under heaven."

Grace and Peace,
Matt



**WORSHIP
SUNDAY, JULY 25**

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

*Fully vaccinated worshippers and staff are
no longer asked to wear a mask indoors.*

*We request that all non-vaccinated individuals
continue to wear a mask indoors.*

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

*Masks will be provided for any children who do not have them.
When outside, masks are not required.*

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

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

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



CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO REGISTER!

MISSION : POSSIBLE **SMPC VBS FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADES**

VBS MISSION: POSSIBLE DONATION LIST

Click here for a complete listing!

Our *Mission: Possible* VBS group (5th & 6th graders) will be embarking on an adventure! They will be traveling to CMPD Animal Care and Control, Samaritan's Feet, and Promising Pages to learn about each organization and the important work they do in the Charlotte Area. They are also going to learn about the ministry of Roof Above. As part of their learning, they are collecting donations from VBS participants and their church family. If you would like to donate, please click the link for an Amazon wish list or see the gently used items needed below. You can look for a Mission Possible bin in the Narthex on Sunday mornings July 25 and August 1.

Gently Used Items for Animal Care and Control

- Newspapers

- Plastic grocery bags
- New or gently used blankets, towels, and hand towels
- Brown paper bags
- Shoe boxes of all sizes
- Bath mats
- Fleece blankets
- Baby blankets

Questions?

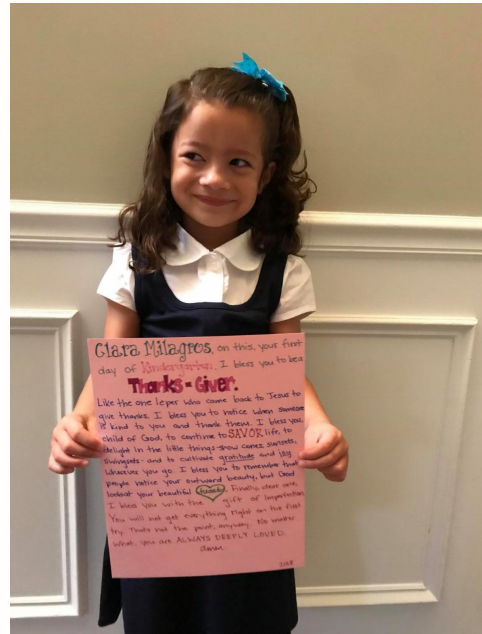
Contact Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
rebecca@smpchome.org

How to Write a Back to School Blessing

Sunday, August 15
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

In this class, you will learn how to write a Back to School Blessing for your child(ren) for their first day of school.

This is a ritual that I've engaged in for the past three years, and I have treasured these moments. You do not need a seminary education to write a Back to School Blessing; you just need to know your child.



I will show you how to make the Biblical connections and piece it all together.

~ Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

REGISTER HERE



We are so excited that acolytes will serve in worship again!

If you have not been an acolyte before, make sure to schedule a training session with Rebecca Guzman, 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!



Women's Retreat

RECONNECT • REST • RENEW

OCTOBER 15 - 17
MONTREAT, NC

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!

YOUTH MINISTRY



SMPC Youth @ The Bartholomews'

DOWN ON THE FARM

Saturday, August 28
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SWIMMING • VOLLEYBALL • BASKETBALL • CORN HOLE • OUTDOOR FUN

CLICK ABOVE TO REGISTER!

SMPC YOUTH MINISTRY PARENT MEETING

Sunday, August 29 11:15 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO SIGN UP!

Questions? Contact Sheila McAnally, bmcanally@carolina.rr.com.



CLICK ABOVE TO REGISTER!

We need a few parent volunteers!

WORSHIP MINISTRY



INTERESTED? CLICK ABOVE TO EMAIL ZACH BOWYER.

MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

Spoon it up...
OFFERING
for Roof Above

SUNDAY!

BREAD MINISTRY

CLICK THE IMAGE TO SIGN UP
TO DELIVER BREAD ON FRIDAY MORNINGS
TO OUR NEIGHBORS AT ROOF ABOVE.

Contact Kyle Smith, 980.288.0047
or ksmith@helenadamsrealty.com for more details.

Bread
Donation & Delivery



SMALL GROUPS AND MEET-UPS

EXPLORING CRAFT BREWERIES IN AND AROUND CHARLOTTE



HOPS

• AROUND TOWN •
— SMPC —

SATURDAY, JULY 24
4:00 P.M.

VAULTED OAK BREWING

3726 MONROE ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28205
WWW.VAULTEDOAKBREWING.COM

Join us for quaffs & conversation!
Questions? Contact Daniel Bayer, danielbayer05@gmail.com.

C.A.R.E.

Conversation Around Race Equity

Sunday, August 15, 4:00 p.m., Zoom

Monday, August 16, 12:00 p.m., Zoom

Future Dates:

Sunday, August 29 & Monday, August 30

Sunday, September 12 & Monday, September 13

Sunday, September 26 & Monday, September 27

We will be using the book *Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving to spark conversation.

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

Email Rev. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID#.

C.A.R.E.

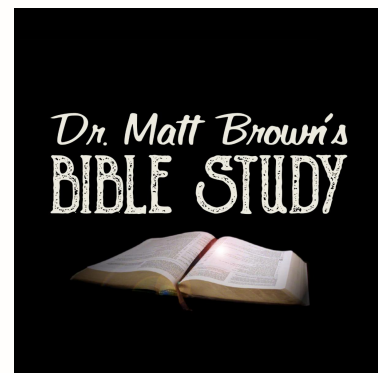
Conversation Around
Race Equity

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, for the Zoom ID#.



Food for Thought Book Group

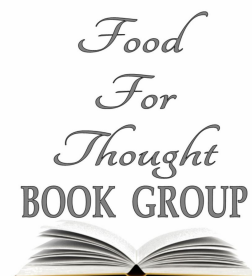
Thursday, August 5, 6:30 p.m., SMPC

Theme: Honeybee Appreciation

Book: *The Honey Bus, a Memoir of Loss, Courage, and a Girl Saved By Bees*, By Meredith May (NF)

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, 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.

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

GIVING



STAYING CONNECTED

Visit our Website



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

*ON 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

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list!

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church | 8601 Bryant Farms Rd., Charlotte, NC 28277

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with



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