

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH A TRYING TIME

My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is poured out on the ground because of the destruction of my people ... The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him.

- Lamentations 2:11; 3:19-24



Among the great gifts we have inherited from the Hebrew Bible (The Old Testament) are the profound and unvarnished ways they grant us the permission to grieve. In the Psalms, through the laments of Jeremiah, and out of the plaintive sorrows of the preacher in Lamentations, we discern a God big enough to absorb the rawest emotions our grief can generate. Maybe that's why I've long been confused by the cultural practice sunglasses at the funeral. All vanities aside, there is no need to hide our tears from God. Piety and grief are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, in our deepest grief there is no one who wants to offer the warmth of embrace more than God. As David Wilcox sang, "If he felt the nails in his hands, he surely knows how you feel." Grief is not contrary to faith. In fact, grief is a sign of faith, possibly an outward expression of the inner knowledge that life matters, a treasure to be celebrated, and in death a loss to mourn. Our grief is not a denial of God's eternal promises. It just hurts, and it is okay to say so.

As our nation reels from the loss of 100,000 to the rage of the Covid-19, we can only begin to imagine the legion of those wilting under the weight of sorrow. Though we cannot heal their grief, we can share their lament, trusting that the One who loves us most fully, grieves with them and will not let them go. In the words of the Psalmist, "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God." Psalms of praise will come, but when we just do not have the voice to praise, God is still present to hear our lament. May the Lord bless and keep those for whom the whelming of sorrow is raw and real for now.

Grace and Peace,

Matt

Matt invites you to join him for a weekly Bible Study via Zoom.

Each week we focus on the Bible passage that will guide worship for the coming Sunday. You can join us on Wednesdays at either 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate, email Matt, matt@smphome.org, and he will send you a Zoom Invitation.

WHERE IS GOD
IN A PANDEMIC?



WEBINAR: WHERE IS GOD IN A PANDEMIC?

Understanding and Responding to Suffering

Thursday, May 28,

7:00 p.m., ZOOM



You are invited to a virtual webinar led by Dr. Richard Boyce, Vice President and Dean, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Save the date: Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. This webinar is co-hosted by Union Presbyterian Seminary and by four congregations whose pastors are members of a Text study group including Jody Welker. Richard is in the group as well. Sponsoring congregations are: the Kirk of Kildaire, Palma Ceia Presbyterian in Tampa, South Mecklenburg Presbyterian in Charlotte, and Park Lake Presbyterian in Orlando.

Richard will offer a brief presentation on the topic of God and suffering in light of the pandemic. Then he wishes to engage in dialogue via your questions.

We invite your questions for Dr. Boyce prior to the event. You can email your questions to Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org. Click here to connect to the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99520368686>



WEAR RED for Pentecost



Look for this post on our Facebook page, and post your photos in the comments!

Pentecost Sunday!

Please wear red, orange, or yellow on Pentecost Sunday and [visit our Facebook page](#) to post your Pentecost worship attire.

Come, holy spirit!

No matter your age, you may appreciate this beautiful coloring page: <https://www.illustratedministry.com/2020/pentecost-coloring-page-holy-spirit/>

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

from the desk of Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation



Check your email for the ZOOM link, or email rebecca@smpchome.org.

Kids Zoom Pentecost Meetup
Sunday May 31
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Join Rebecca for a quick kids zoom meetup to watch a special Pentecost video and show off your Pentecost projects. Check your email for a zoom link or [email Rebecca](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org) if you don't receive one.



[Contact Rebecca Guzman here.](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org)



Faith Practice at Home

Click on the link to Faith Practice at Home for a pdf with five easy steps to hear the week's Bible story and to engage it as a household. Do this anytime before worship at 10:10 a.m. on Sundays, and you'll be amazed at the new things you might notice in the flow of worship, the liturgy, and in the sermon – all because you've taken some time to know the story! *Click on the Faith Practice at Home logo above!*



Listen to this week's FaithCAST!

Click the image above to listen.



3rd-5th Grade Trivia
Sunday June 7
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., ZOOM

Join your friends for a fun Disney Universe themed trivia (includes Marvel and Star Wars). There will be a prize! Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/>

**FOR WORSHIP,
CHILDREN WILL NEED:**

Paper

Pencil

Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils

Ribbons or streamers

Connected device to watch a YouTube video



**REGISTER
NOW**

VIRTUAL Grandparent Camp
June 10-12

Grandparent camp is for children ages 5+ and their grandparents. Each grandparent can accompany up to two children for three mornings of worship, storytelling, play, creativity, and mission.

Grandparent camp will be modified in 2020 and offered virtually, so all participants will need access to a device.

Supplies will be packaged for pickup before camp. Grandparents and grandchildren do not need to be in the same home. [Sign up on MySMPC](#) and [contact Rebecca Guzman](#) with questions.

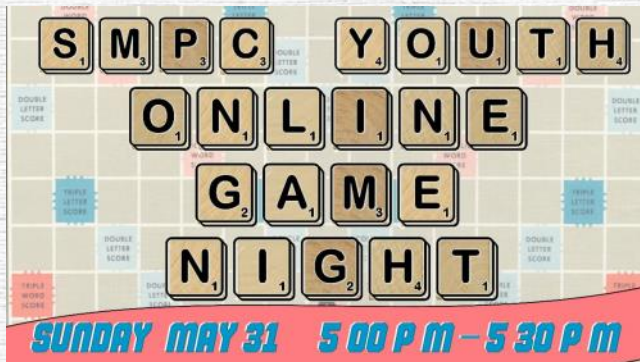
Deadline to register is June 1 so we can order and put together kits.

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](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).

YOUTH MINISTRY

from the desk of Rev. Jessica Tidwell, Director of Youth Ministry



Youth Game Night

Sunday, May 31

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Check the Youth email for the ZOOM link
or email jessica@smpchome.org.



[Contact
Rev. Jessica Tidwell
here.](#)

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

from the desk of Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection



Looking for ways to stay better connected with your church family? If you haven't already, check out *Church Life*! You can view the church calendar and membership directory, stay up-to-date on current events and classes, and make financial contributions.

If you've never used *Church Life* and don't have a user name and password, go to the church website, www.smpchome.org, and click on the [Church Life logo](#) (left). Follow the prompts to enter your first name, last name and email address; these must match the information we have on record for you. You will receive a password via email, which must be changed with your first successful login. You may then enter a password of your choice.

Once you have a user name and password, you can download the *Church Life* app to your smart phone or device. You will have instant access to SMPC contacts and events anytime, anywhere – use it to view people (including photos) and make phone calls or send emails to them with just one click.

[Click here for step-by-step instructions.](#)

If you have any questions, please let me know! Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

MeetUP: Coffee Grounds ONLINE

Sunday, May 31

11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., ZOOM

This Sunday, pop in/out to **Coffee Grounds ONLINE!** After streaming our worship service live, email Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org for the Zoom ID# to see familiar faces and perhaps meet someone new.



[Contact Nancy Metzler here.](#)

ONLINE GIVING



Many of our donors feel a connection to the church's work when they are able to place their gift in our offering plates and then dedicate those offerings through prayer with the congregation. This is an important practice and an important part of our worship services. Many other donors appreciate the convenience and discipline of online giving, and those gifts, too, are dedicated through prayer during the worship services each week. For the next several weeks, while meeting together is not possible, the church would like to encourage either **online giving** (options and instructions below) or **mailing gifts** to our P.O. Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271.

For questions or help with online giving, contact Mary Katheryne Zagora in the church office, mkzagora@smpchome.org or 704-544-0404 ext 116.

To give online:

1. [Click HERE](https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679): <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679>
2. Enter the amount you would like to give, and then select a fund from the drop-down menu.

Most gifts will be to the Operating Fund. For Spoon it Up donations, select "Other" and type Spoon it Up in the memo box.

3. Enter your email address and click continue. On the next screen you will be prompted to enter your debit card, credit card, or bank account information.
4. Click "Give."

To give via text:

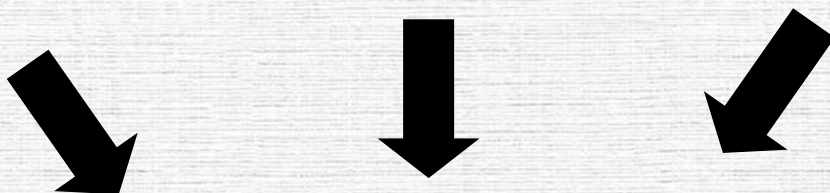
1. Text SMPC to 73256.
2. Click the link in the reply text you will receive.
3. Enter the amount you would like to give and tap the "Text Gifts" box.
4. You will be prompted to enter your debit card, credit card, or bank account information.
5. Click "Give."

To set up a recurring online gift:

1. Log in to ChurchLife and select "Give Online" from the "Giving" drop down menu.
2. Enter the amount you would like to give, and then select a fund from the drop-down menu.
3. Choose the frequency of your gift amount (weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly).
4. Enter your debit card, credit card, or bank account information and click "Give."

Staying Connected

ROKU  **amazon** **fireTV**

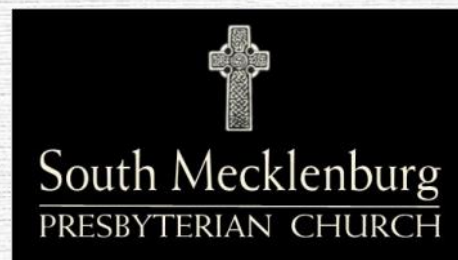


BOXCAST



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".



Staying Connected

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church is employing various avenues of technology to keep us connected and informed.

Our worship staff, careful to maintain social distance, are gathering in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings to create a worship experience through live streaming. Access to live streaming has been expanded across several communication channels to make it even easier to join in worship.



Our website, www.smpchome.org has been revamped to shift our live and past worship services to the forefront. From the home page of the website, we can join in worship, view the worship bulletin, and participate in online giving. Our website is viewable in both desktop and mobile versions.



We are also taking full advantage of our existing Facebook page (www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian) by live streaming our worship service, sharing announcements and updates, and creating “Noon Prayer”, a Facebook Live video leading us in prayer at 12:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Be sure to “like” our page.



If you use the streaming services ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV, you can now view our live and past worship services by adding BOXCAST from your channel store. Search for “South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church”, mark it as favorite, and watch from your television. (See instructions on the previous page.)



Our staff, committees, studies and groups are using ZOOM, a video conferencing platform to meet “face-to-face”. If your group is interested in this format, please contact Rev. Jessica Tidwell, jessica@smpchome.org, or Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, for details.





South Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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