



SMPC Now

Thursday, March 4, 2021

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH A TRYING TIME

...for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.

– Romans 8:20-24a

I was surprised this week to hear that the governor had expedited the eligibility for robe-totin' folks like me to receive the COVID vaccine. Somehow, he was under the impression that this work is essential, which of course, suggests that the governor has not spoken with the members of my congregation who have to abide listening to me week after week. But, hey, if Roy says it's essential, I'll jump in line. Yes, I have joined that mad scramble of comfortable-shoed Mecklenburgers out searching for the the product of the biggest thing in science since Apollo 11. And though my laptop rivals the power of those room-sized data-processors of the Sixties, the effort seems no less daunting. So far, the word has been, *No soup for you!!* I feel a bit like a character in *A Chorus Line*.

God, I hope I get it.

I hope I get it.

How many doses do they have?

How many people get a shot?

God, I hope I get it.

I hope I get it.

How many Moderna, how many Phizers?

Step, kick, kick, leap, kick ... ouch!... Again!

(I hope that last line won't resemble the queue at the vaccination destination.)

Hopefully, sooner than later, we'll be together comparing COVID tales in an environment that allows our anxieties to be focused on such pressing concerns as whether Meghan and Harry spend Christmas with the Royals and why in the world Chick-fil-A removed traditional Chick-n-Strips from the menu. Talk about being subjected to futility!!

Yet, the truth we are loath to face is that even with the vaccination we are going to be living with the impact of the pandemic for quite some time along with the inevitable buffet of curve balls, hiccups, land mines, hassles, catch-22s, dilemmas, and hurdles that spice this grand adventure we call life. Too often, we are bedeviled by the daydream of life beyond the crisis, which distracts us from the constructive process of discerning a path through this crisis by the light of the Spirit, who alone can fuel us with the hope that draws us closer to "the freedom of the glory of the children of God." As Paul affirms in the same letter, "We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Grace and Peace,
Matt



SMPC REOPENING TASK FORCE

Return of Outdoor Worship Sunday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.

This Sunday, March 7, marks 52 weeks since our SMPC family gathered for *Gratitude Sunday* – a time to celebrate the blessings of being God's church in this corner of South Charlotte. All received "gratitude cards" and were asked to complete this sentence: I am grateful that SMPC is my church home because... Responses ranged from the quality of preaching to love of the music program. One note reads, "I find peace, comfort, a time of reflection and friendship." While another says, "I get to climb trees and have lemonade and cookies!"

We have much to be grateful for and to celebrate one year later -- our vaccinated neighbors, our children reuniting with friends at school, small groups are gathering on our SMPC campus, and the number of COVID-19 cases is on the decline. As of March 1, clergy are eligible for the vaccine and we pray our staff will soon be immune! And with the warmer weather we are excited to offer in-person, outdoor worship beginning **Sunday, March 21, at**

8:30 a.m. On-line reservations begin Thursday, March 18. Worshipers will wear masks and bring chairs. A weekly 8:30 a.m. outdoor worship service will be offered (weather permitting) until we can safely transition to a limited capacity indoor service.

As we journey through Lent together, we invite you to experience all the meaningful Holy Week observances SMPC has to offer. If your small group would like to schedule an on-campus gathering, please contact Freda Smith, freda@smpchome.org.

Stay safe and stay connected,

Task force representatives: Dr. Matt Brown, Freda Smith, Terry Gaines, Geoffrey Lee, TimMorgan, Collin Sinclair, Patty Stevenson, Anna Vechnak, Ann Whitlock, and Denise Wilcox.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

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

Children's Worship Supplies for Sunday, March 7:

Markers or Crayons

Pencil

Paper

PRINT THIS IMAGE TO COLOR



YOUTH MINISTRY

**Youth Small Groups
World Records Game Night
Sunday, March 14
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

CLICK THE IMAGE FOR DETAILS!

SMPC YOUTH SMALL GROUPS



Sunday, March 14 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY



**WELCOME HOME BASKETS
FOR
CENTER OF HOPE NEIGHBORS**

During March, small groups and families are invited to "adopt" a laundry basket and fill it with supplies needed to set up a home. SMPC will bless the baskets on Palm Sunday.

CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO ADOPT A BASKET!

**American Red Cross
BLOOD + DRIVE**

Friday, March 19

REGISTER HERE!

SCHOOL LUNCHES for HAITI

Select "Give Online" at www.smpchome.org/give

**CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO PROVIDE
SCHOOL LUNCHES FOR OUR CHILDREN IN HAITI.**

Select the fund, "School Lunches for Haiti" in the dropdown menu.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY



Baby Ministry

Our Baby Ministry supports families with new additions. A team delivers meals, installs an announcement sign and more.

Contact: Kara Guy, kara.g.guy@gmail.com, 704-579-0815



Transportation Ministry

SMPC has a team of volunteer drivers ready to serve those who need a ride to worship or church activities, doctor's appointments or the grocery store.

Contact: Tony Castle, ccastle645@gmail.com, 980-224-8965

PROPERTY MINISTRY



SMALL GROUPS AND MEET-UPS



NEW! FWC (Fun Walking Club) @ SMPC
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. & Thursdays, 5:00 p.m.*
SMPC Campus

Looking for an opportunity to connect with your church family? Join us in the SMPC parking lot as we begin our walks. We'll wear masks and practice social distancing. *Weather permitting!

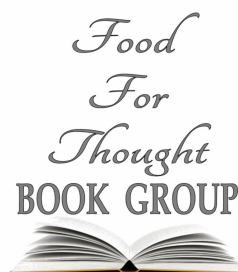
Contact Emily Price, emilypricemoss@gmail.com, 704.649.7543.

Food for Thought Book Group **Thursday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., Zoom**

Theme: Women's History Month
 Book: *The Giver of the Stars* by Jojo Moyes
 (Historical Fiction)

When a call goes out for women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on. *Click the image link for this year's schedule and reading list.*

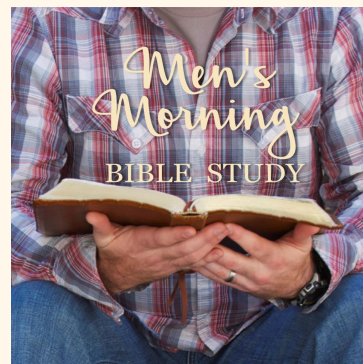
Contact Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com, for the Zoom link.



Men's Morning Bible Study **Fridays, 6:45 a.m. - 7:45 a.m., Zoom**

Start your morning with fellowship and Bible study. There is always great discussion around readings and current events.

Contact Aarik Eberhardt, aarikeberhardt@gmail.com, for the Zoom link.



Coffee Grounds Online **Sundays, 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.

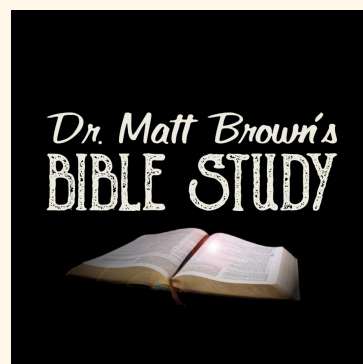
Contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID#



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#



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!

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".

GIVING



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8601 Bryant Farms Road Charlotte, North Carolina 28277 704.544.0404

www.smpchome.org

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

[Unsubscribe freda@smpchome.org](mailto:freda@smpchome.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by smpcoffice@smpchome.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!