

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





Family, Faith, & Fellowship Kickoff Sunday, September 13, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

This fall, we will be providing families with resources to do faith at home. On September 13, we will have an outdoor, socially-distanced kickoff event for families with children 5th grade and under. This will happen at the same time as the youth gathering. At the kickoff, you will receive your *Faith at Home* kit, learn how to use it, 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 an optional companion video 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.**

CHILDREN: BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SOME ZOOM CHECK-INS!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Please visit www.smpchome.org/youth for an instructional video, the complete Youth Calendar, Youth Participation Form and all registration information. All in-person youth gatherings will require prior registration and a Youth Participation Form.

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m., Outdoors, Church Campus

Registration required on Church Life.

A masked, socially-distanced gathering.

YOUTH GROUP ONLINE

Sundays, September 27 & October 18, Zoom

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Check the Tuesday Youth email for the link.

YOUTH SUNDAY: FAITH OVER FEAR

October 25: Youth will lead worship!

Please check your Tuesday Youth email for more details.

Contact Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl, Director of Youth Ministry, jessica@SMPChome.org if you do not currently receive the email.

SMPC MeetUps & SMALL GROUPS

BALLANTYNE BUSINESS (SMPC MeetUp)

1st & 3rd Wednesday Each Month, 12:00 p.m., Zoom

A fellowship lunch group who work in Ballantyne.

David Huss, david.huss@allentate.com

COFFEE GROUNDS ONLINE (SMPC MeetUp)

Sundays, 11:30-12:00 p.m., Zoom

Catch up with your SMPC family after worship!

Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org

FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOOK GROUP (Small Group)

1st Thursday Each Month, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

Visit www.SMPChome.org for the 2020-2021 Reading List.

Kathy Paquette, knesspaquette@aol.com

SIT 'N SEE (SMPC MeetUp)

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

Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org

**Have an idea for a new small group or SMPC MeetUp?
Contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection
nancy@SMPChome.org**

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Zoom, Resumes September 13

This group looks at contemporary issues and how they relate to our Christian faith. To join in, contact Brenton Hartman below.

Brenton Hartman, hartbc2@gmail.com

NEW! BACK TO BASICS

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Zoom, September 14, 21, and 28

Whether you're just starting your faith journey or have been on the journey for a while, we invite you to explore some of the basic tenets of what we as Presbyterians believe and why. We'll start with a short video and move on to discussion. Sign up on Church Life.

Nancy Metzler, Nancy@SMPChome.org

DR. MATT BROWN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Join us as we discuss the scripture passages for the upcoming week's sermon. For meeting link, contact Dr. Matt Brown below.

Dr. Matt Brown, matt@SMPChome.org

JOY CLASS

Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Zoom, Resumes September 13

The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, book/video series with Kathie Lee Gifford. Register on Church Life or email Carol Palmgren below.

Carol Palmgren, carol.palmgren@gmail.com

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Fridays, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m., Zoom, Resumes September 11

To be added to the distribution list for upcoming studies and meeting links, please contact Aarik Eberhardt below.

Aarik Eberhardt, aarikeberhardt@gmail.com

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Zoom, Begins September 21

Kerygma: An Odd Couple: Jonah and Ruthology (Ruth) September 21-October 19. Books (\$21) are available in eBook format. Sign up on Church Life.

Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com

NEW! PARENTS TAKE FIVE

Parents of children and youth will enjoy a pop-up Zoom gathering at 8:30 p.m. on various weeknights. 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.

Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl, jessica@SMPChome.org

SAVE THE DATE!



WOMEN'S
DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

SMPC Women are invited to an outdoor, socially-distanced mini retreat on the church campus!

**Need assistance in finding the right study for you?
Contact Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation,
rebecca@SMPChome.org**

MUSIC MINISTRY

IN-PERSON REHEARSALS

YOUTH BOOMWHACKERS

Sundays, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., The Commons
Begins September 13, Middle & High School Youth
Youth Boomwhackers will replace Youth Handbells and Youth Choir this fall, and will rehearse with masks while practicing social distancing.



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

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.

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.

Need assistance in finding your place in SMPC's Music Ministry?
Contact Zach Bowyer, Director of Music Ministry,
zach@SMPChome.org.

MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

HALLELUJAH FOR HAITI

September 18-27, Facebook Virtual Fundraiser

Join this virtual fundraising event hosted by Friends Empowering Haiti, formerly FOFEB. Their mission is to raise awareness and generate financial support for the fine people of Bayonnais, Haiti. Learn more and donate here:
<https://m.facebook.com/events/276056880339272>

✉ Kyle Smith, kyle.smith@helenadamsrealty.com

SMPC CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 11, 2:30 p.m., Walk begins at SMPC

Be part of a nationwide endeavor to alleviate hunger and poverty in this country and overseas. Our walk this year will begin at the church and meander through Ballantyne. Social distancing precautions will be observed. Sign-ups coming soon!

✉ Bob Cushman, rtcushman@yahoo.com

Need assistance in finding your place in SMPC's Missions-Outreach Ministry?
Contact Kyle Smith, 2021 Chair, Missions-Outreach Ministry,
kyle.smith@helenadamsrealty.com.

FINANCE MINISTRY

2020-2025

From Strength to Strength Capital Campaign



Our Capital Campaign team is pleased to report that pledges to our 2020-2025 *From Strength to Strength* capital campaign total \$2,744,000, or 84% of our \$3,250,000 goal—a fantastic response to a capital campaign held during a pandemic! One hundred percent of our \$450,000 Matching Pool fund was utilized! This is very exciting, and was dependent on support from 63 families new to supporting a capital campaign and 61 repeat families who increased their support in this campaign by more than 10%.

Several families supporting the campaign deferred making a pledge due to the pandemic, and the committee will follow up with those families and with new families in the next eighteen months. Thank you to all in our congregation for supporting this campaign!

A detailed financial update of SMPC's Operating Fund, our Paycheck Protection Program loan, and the Preschool will be included soon in a full report from our Funds Management committee in an upcoming issue of SMPC Now, our weekly email.



Operating Fund Campaign

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Commitment Sunday is October 25

PLEDGE ONLINE AT WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG/GIVE.

Have questions or want to discover ways to support the ministry of SMPC?
Contact Mary Katherlyne Zagora, Business Administrator,
mkgagora@SMPChome.org.

SMPC PRESCHOOL

We are so sad that the preschool here at SMPC was unable to open this Fall due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19 and the need for our teachers to support their own families, both young and old, at home. Ultimately, there were no good choices for us to safely open the preschool at this time. We think of our preschool families often and hope that they and their loved ones are safe and healthy at home as we continue to navigate what it means to live with Covid -19 in our community. We have hope that by the time we get to January, the situation with the virus will have stabilized which will allow us to open for the rest of the school year. During the time that we are closed, we plan to remain in contact with our SMPC families and will do our best to provide them with guidance and activities for how to learn through play at home using Google Classroom and Zoom. If you have any questions about the preschool, please do not hesitate to reach out to me either by email or phone.



Carol Watkins, Director SMPC Preschool
carol.watkins@smpchome.org / 704.544.9831



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8601 Bryant Farms Road
Charlotte, NC 28277

Return service requested.

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WORSHIP WITH US! Live Streaming SUNDAYS, 10:10 A.M.

Join us for worship! An embedded screen featuring both live and archived services may be viewed on the home page of our website, **WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG**.

For full-screen viewing, click the "Watch" button and expand your screen from there. On the home page you may also view the worship bulletin, the children's worship supplies, the weekly email (*SMPC Now*), and participate in online giving. Our website is viewable in both desktop and mobile versions.

We are also taking full advantage of our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian) by live streaming our worship service, sharing announcements, events, updates, and video content. Be sure to "like" our page.



Invite your friends to worship!

If you have ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV, you will 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.

BOXCAST

A quarterly publication from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church.
For more worship, study and fellowship opportunities, visit www.SMPChome.org.