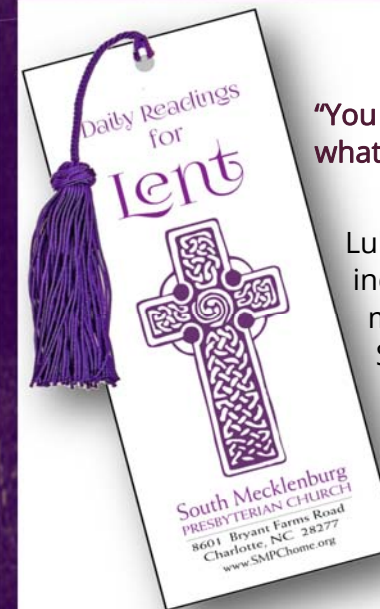


# Seasons

## of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church



### Come Read the Story!

"You tell a story because a statement would be inadequate. When anybody asks what a story is about, the only proper thing is to tell him to read the story."  
 – Flannery O'Connor

Luke is, perhaps, the most gifted storyteller of all the Gospel writers. He tells an incredibly engaging story of the life of Jesus. Many of us remember one of the many parables of Jesus that are exclusive to this book of the Bible: the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and more. Luke uses Jesus' parables and the story of his life to paint a picture for us of what the life of a follower of Christ really looks like: what does it mean for me to be a person of faith under the rule of God? We can think of no better time to ask this question than during the season of Lent, and this year we're inviting you to read the Gospel of Luke with us, to examine this question, and to emerge on Easter as people who are living into the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

How will we do it? There are a few different parts to the reading of Luke. First, you are invited to pick up a bookmark and use it to read short passages from Luke on each day of Lent. You can also read these daily passages by subscribing to them online. Second, on Sundays, we will choose one story from our weekly readings with which to engage. The sermon will focus on the passage, and children and adults will be invited to study it more fully in Sunday School. Matt's Bible studies on Wednesday will offer a chance to review the text, and our Lenten Yoga will be yet another opportunity to reflect on the reading from Luke.

So, come with us! As Alan Culpepper writes, "If the Spirit empowered the witness of this Gospel, then by opening ourselves to it we may also be guided by God's Spirit to be a part of God's ongoing redemptive work." Let's take some wisdom from Flannery O'Connor and read the story!

Blessings,

*Rebecca*

Rebecca Guzman  
 Director of Spiritual Formation

Palm Sunday Worship, April 9  
 8:10 a.m., 9:10 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service  
 April 13, 7:30 p.m.

## Holy Week



Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
 April 14, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Worship, April 16  
 8:10 a.m., 9:10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

## 

through a spirit of generosity

## 2017 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In 2008, during the height of the economic downturn, South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church boldly began raising the funds to construct our current Sanctuary home. It was a difficult time to take such a leap of faith. Through prayer and generous giving, we now have our enduring worship space, which has given us room to welcome many more families to our faith community. During the subsequent years, we as a congregation have committed to several capital campaigns and have substantially reduced the debt we owe to \$4.1 million.

During the coming weeks, SMPC will embark on a new capital campaign to raise at least \$1.4 million to meet the required debt payments over the coming three years. A leadership team has been commissioned to this important endeavor. The leadership team, along with Hewett Consulting and many of you, will work hand in hand and in a spirit of generosity to ensure success. Here are several important opportunities where we will ask for your engagement:

**Vision Awareness Gatherings: March 12-19**  
**Commitment Sunday: April 23 (one worship service: 10:30 a.m.)**  
**First Fruits Sunday: May 7**

This campaign will put us on the path to fully retire the Sanctuary debt over the coming nine years and allow us **ROOM TO DREAM** of the opportunities we will have as a community to faithfully serve as God calls us.



## SPIRITUAL JOURNALING FOR LENT

**Sunday, February 26**

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Room 206**

Just before Lent, a time of self-reflection, contemplation, and walking through scriptures of Jesus stories, SMPC will offer a Spiritual Journaling session led by Mandy Godbey. Here we will use pre-drawn coloring pages, drawing words, shapes, and designs on plain paper to express deep longings that stir inside our souls. NO EXPERIENCE is necessary. Pens, coloring pages, and paper will be provided if needed; however if you have a journaling or drawing book and special pens you like, please bring them. *Register at MySMPC.*



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Serving begins at 5:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall**

*Reserve your seat for supper at MySMPC or in the Narthex.*

*The suggested donation is \$3 per person or \$12 per family.*

Shrove Tuesday is a feast or celebration the day before Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and prayer to prepare for the season of Lent. In many parts of the world, it is a tradition to eat pancakes the day before the beginning of Lent.

At SMPC, this is our seventh year in a row to come together as a church family to eat pancakes – topped with syrup, whipped cream and sprinkles – and bacon and sausage.

*After pancakes, everyone is invited to stuff snack bags for homeless children served by A Child's Place.*

*Please bring donations of breakfast food items (pancake mix, syrup, grits, and Tang drink mix) to support our monthly Center of Hope breakfast.*

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**WORSHIP & IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Lunchtime: 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary**

*This new time offering is designed for the lunch hour, and will last approximately 30 minutes.*

**Evening: 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

*Music by the Chancel Choir*



Ash Wednesday is a day of solemn assembly. It is a fast day, a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more.

## LENTEN STUDIES

**The Gospel of Luke**

**Sundays, March 5 - April 9**

led by Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Sundays at 9:00 a.m., McQueen Room

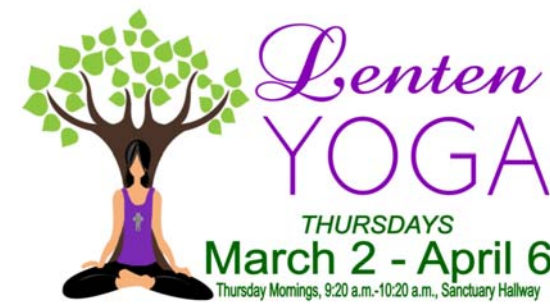
Join us as we study the Gospel of Luke during Lent. Spending six weeks with one gospel will give us the opportunity to take a deeper dive to explore Luke's world, his audience, his message, his understanding of Jesus, and most of all, what it means for us today.

We'll place a special focus on the sermon text for the day, which will enrich our experience of worship. We will also look at the All Church Reads chapters for the week, which will allow us to get a greater sense of the narrative arc.

Spending time in one story of Jesus' life from beginning to end during Lent will certainly prepare us to experience the true joy of Easter. Come be a part of the conversation!

**DR. MATT BROWN'S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYS, 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

**OTHER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP STUDIES ARE LISTED AT [WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG](http://WWW.SMPCHOME.ORG).**



*We'll read the passage from Luke for the upcoming Sunday, hear some thoughts about the reading, and then be given questions to ponder silently as we practice Yoga. Mariannie Segarra is our Yoga instructor, and she will close us in another short meditation.*

*All levels, including beginner, are welcome to come practice with us. During Advent, we found that being in the Narthex was a perfect setting for quiet contemplation and honoring God with our bodies. Bring a yoga mat, a water bottle, and a donation for our instructor.*

*Please contact Rebecca Guzman in advance if you would like childcare.*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

***Our Youth will observe Lent through worship, fellowship & service!***

***NEW! To sign up for weekly Youth Reminders, text @smpcyouth to 81010.***

**March 5, BYG (Big Youth Group):** Students should be dressed warmly and ready to walk. We will do a service project on behalf of Beds for Kids!

**March 12, Amazing Race!** *Register at MySMPC by March 8.*

**March 25-26, 30 Hour Famine:** *Deadline to register is March 17.*

**April 2, Brightmore:** We will do a service project with the residents of the assisted living wing, and share music and readings with the independent living wing.



## Seasons & Stories

**2017 Women's Retreat**  
**April 28-30**  
**Lake Junaluska, NC**

***Register NOW***  
***at MySMPC.***



## SAVE THE DATES!

**Saturday, April 29**

American Red Cross Blood Drive

**Sunday, May 7**

Golf Outing

**Sunday, May 21**

Confirmation Sunday

**July 31 - August 4**

Vacation Bible School

## CANTARE!

The Presbyterian College Men's Choir

**Sunday, April 23**

**10:30 a.m.**

