



THE SELWYN SPIRE

August 2026

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church

2929 Selwyn Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209

Selwyn campus: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Tel: 704-372-6836, www.selwynpres.org

Quail campus: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Dear Church Family,

After more than a year of prayerful discernment, we are delighted to welcome René Prager as Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church's new Director of Christian Education and Formation for Adults and Children. René came to us through a strong recommendation from Union Presbyterian Seminary's Center for Excellence in Christian Education and brings more than 30 years of experience serving the church with wisdom, creativity, and deep faith.

We are profoundly grateful to our Personnel Search Committee—Katie Cumbus (Chair), Rebekah Correll, Elizabeth Stearns, Suzanne Newsom, Bailey King, Andy Burgin, and Bobby Yurkatat—for their faithful work throughout this process. Their affirmation of René's call was unanimous. René's first Sunday at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church will be August 23, 2026.

We also give heartfelt thanks to Karley Wilke-Nadler and Caroline Thompson for their outstanding leadership and care during this season of transition. Together with our staff, elders, and many dedicated volunteers, they have laid a strong foundation for the future of Christian formation at SAPC. As we prepare for a new program year, we invite everyone to join our growing team of teachers, mentors, nursery volunteers, and ministry leaders. We believe God is preparing an exciting season of learning, discipleship, and community, and we hope you will find a place to be part of it.

Please join me in warmly welcoming René as she shares this greeting with our congregation.

With Hope,

Lori

Rev. Dr. Lori Archer Raible

Hello Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church,

I am excited to meet you and to serve as your Director of Christian Education and Formation for Adults, Children and their Families. From my first conversation with Lori, I felt God calling me to Selwyn Avenue. I'm impressed with your partnership with Montclair Elementary School and the ways you support and love one another through the blessings and the challenges. I look forward to learning more, building relationships, and growing in our faith together.

A little bit about me: I am a child of God, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, a neighbor, and a friend. I was born in New York, grew up in Virginia, and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Business Logistics. My husband, Chris, and I have called North Carolina home since 1997. We have two daughters (and two sons-in-law), a grandson, and two grand-dogs. I have been working with children and youth for the majority of my life in a variety of settings including recreation, scouts, and church. It is the work that brings me the most joy!

Our family joined First Presbyterian Church, Concord in 2001 and I served as a volunteer coordinator for the church nursery, Junior Church, and Vacation Bible School. I was active in Sunday School and Presbyterian Women, serving as the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in 2020 and receiving the Honorary Life Membership recognition in 2023.

Five years ago, I began working for the church on an interim basis after the departure of our Associate Pastor of Christian Education. In January of 2022, I officially became the Director of Christian Education, covering all ages, from baptism to resurrection. I enrolled in seminary in the fall of 2022 and graduated with a Master of the Arts in Christian Education in June 2024. Still eager to learn more, I completed a couple of additional classes, followed by my Certification in Christian Education (PCUSA). I continue to seek out conferences and workshops through the Center for Excellence in Christian Education (of Union Presbyterian Seminary), the Association of Partners in Christian Education, and the ARW (Arts, Recreation, & Worship) conference at Montreat. A few highlights for me in ministry include the annual Christmas pageant, Youth Sunday, milestone classes, and classes with parents.

I enjoy chasing waterfalls, hiking, photography, and spending time with my family. I look forward to meeting you all in August!

With gratitude and joy,

René Prager



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Marie Parker

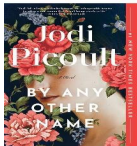
November 27, 1929 - July 7, 2026

We Welcome



Elliott Alexander Glontz,
son of Alex and Alexandra Glontz,
born on July 17, 2026.

SAPC BOOK CLUB



Members of both campuses are invited to participate. Join us on August 18, 6:30pm at Sir Edmond Halley's Restaurant for a discussion of Jodi Picoult's *By Any Other Name*. Questions, contact [Nancy Bobbitt](#).



August 2 - Old-Fashioned Fun Day

Classic games and simple joys like watermelon

August 9 - Paint the Yard with JOY

Mural Painting Day

August 16 - Bluegrass & Bird Feeders

Bluegrass in worship and make your own bird feeders

August 23 - Game On! Yard Games Sunday

Games for all ages

August 30 - Backpack Blessings Sunday

Education and Back-to-School Sunday



Second Sundays this summer.

August 9 Food Truck VBS Celebration

Come learn how we were on a Roll with God.

September 13 Blessings of the Backpacks

In Nursing or Retirement Homes

Aldersgate - Dick Metzler
Asbury - Mary Faye Proctor
Brighton Gardens - Beth Carter
Carriage Club - Peggy Hornberg
Cypress - Bill and Nancy Budd,
Ellen Byrum, Joe Anne Cole,
Mike and Frankie Hinshaw,
Olen and Nancy Smith,
Bob and Frances Walker
Matthews Glen - Anne McMackin,
Cara Munday, Anne Rutherford
Sharon Towers - Joan Foard
Southminster - Emily Cox,
Kathy Dickson, Kay Hastings,
Bobbie Linn, Sally Moore
TerraBella-Cramerton - John McCarter
TerraBella-Newton - Pat Ferguson



will meet on August 2, at 11:30am
in the Parlor. If you would like to
learn more about this ministry,
please join us.

SELWYN CAMPUS GIVING

To make a confidential pledge, you can use this [link](#), email church accountant [Amy Read](#), or return your pledge card to the church office.

Text to Give: 704-734-9818 Enter an amount. The first time, you will be prompted to SHELBY to confirm set up. Then, it is as easy as texting the amount to the phone number. You do not need a keyword if giving to the annual fund.

2026 Stewardship Commitments: If you have returned your commitment card, thank you. If you have not, you can return it to the church office, email [Amy Read](#), or enter your commitment via the [church website](#).

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Katie Koppelman Olivia Martin John McCormick Billy Wilson	7 John Amon Andy Johnston Bobbie Linn Robbie Prowse Kim Tallent	12 Jodi Hearn	18 Mike Bolewitz Everett Burgin Eleanor Finein	24 Becky Barbee Mike Bellamy Aidan Cameron Maisie Macholz Raleigh Shoemaker	27 Lisa Halstead Jim Hudson Tim Palmer Nelson Waple
2 Marion Buchanan Callan Pettiglio	8 Raines Craig Mary Faye Proctor Joseph Vickers	13 Shelby Flowers Brandon Tallent Stuart Windell	19 Quinn Russell-Broadie Caroline Stein	25 Fay Aaron Sophia Hatlem Trey Jeffries Cindi Moore	29 Emily Battle Todd Burbank Michael Warner Anna Widmer
3 AG Yurkutat Zephyr Yurkutat	9 Nora Piacentino Ledare Roush	14 Calli Klinker Ann Miller	20 Kim Darnell Terry Glen Alex Holt	26 Phil Brandt James Lynn Amelia Sauda Owen Sauda George Sutton	30 Olivia Madigan
4 Emery Korch Nora Korch Goldie Short	10 Ryan Cook Adam Tan	15 Erin Miller Channing Pfeifer	21 Tommy Dodsworth		
5 Lee Bobbitt Polly Durham Kim Kurani	11 Emmett Ackerly Anna Ellison Collins Potter	16 Cameron McClane	22 Cathy Sheely Bobby Yurkutat		
		17 Jody Davidson Kim McGirt	23 Peyton Green		



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES IN THE PARLOR

Adult
Sunday School

is using *Wired Word*, which is published each week. The curriculum holds the Bible in one hand, and the newspaper in the other. "News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad, but what better way to extract hope from this input, is to juxtapose Bible verses as tools to persevere and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith."

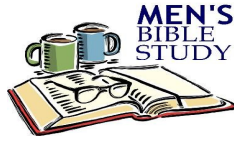
An Elementary VBS is being offered August 4-6, 9am-1pm, on the Quail campus for ages 4-10 years old. The cost is \$60. The Quail campus will be using the curriculum *On a Roll with God*.

[Register here](#) for

Vacation
Bible
School

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY EVENINGS, 7:30pm

Led by Ted Zimmer and Curtis Correll. It is open to men of all ages. Click [this link](#) from your phone.



FRIDAY MORNINGS, 7am

Led by Roger Mills and Joe Bentley at the Bates House. Men of all ages walk through life and faith with honesty, trust, and accountability.



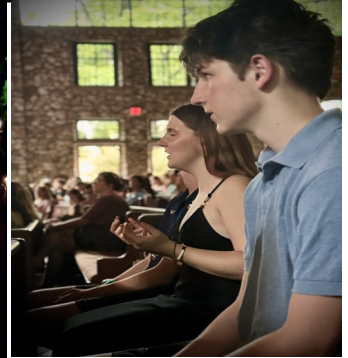
SAVE THE DATE—AUGUST 30, EDUCATION BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

Please join us on the Selwyn front lawn at 9:30am for our annual kick-off to the new education year. Breezeway coffee will be with us again this year. The annual Blessings of the Backpacks will take place during Worship at 10:30am.



YOUTH NEWS

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE WEEK OF JULY 12



APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT WEEK OF JUNE 21



YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF
SEPTEMBER 13, 5-7pm



WORSHIP



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

You are encouraged to sign up in honor or memory of people or occasions. Contact [Marsha Cooper](#) to reserve a date.

Once the date is confirmed online payments or checks for \$65 should be made to the church indicating "sanctuary flowers".



Join us weekly for Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am.

If you cannot attend in person, an email is sent each Sunday at 10:15am with a [Facebook link](#).

You do not need a Facebook account to view the service.

MISSION

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE



- We need 1-pound bags of rice or beans; 16 ounce or smaller cans of vegetables, fruits, or canned meats/proteins; individually wrapped nut free snacks and other breakfast items.
- No glass jars please!
- Bring items to the church the first Sunday of each month or during weekly church office hours.

OPERATION SANDWICH, AUGUST 15

Operation Sandwich is a community driven program established by Roof Above to assist in feeding people experiencing homelessness.

Assist by preparing bagged lunches for our Roof Above homeless neighbors. Please sign up in increments of ten lunches through [this link](#).



Prepared lunches should be brought to the church on August 15 between 9-10am for delivery to Roof Above.

FIRST SUNDAY, AUGUST 2



Help stock the shelves by purchasing and returning requested grocery store items (canned fruits and vegetables and 1 lb. bags of rice and beans). No glass items please.

Thank you for your help with pantry items for Montclair Elementary.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER IS BACK

On October 18, we are excited to host a Rise Against Hunger food packing event. We're committed to packing meals for neighbors around the world who are experiencing hunger. After worship, those participating in the event will share a quick lunch, check in, and receive assignments to begin packing meals right away.

A Rise Against Hunger team member will be present to instruct and lead us through the process. Look for a sign-up link in future publications.



Have A Heart For Mission?

Want to get involved in Selwyn mission endeavors?
Contact [Brian Daoust](#) or [Karey Tom](#).

SELWYN CAMPUS STAFF

Lori Archer Raible, *Pastor*

Margo Richardson Fraga, *Associate Pastor*

Brian Daoust, *Associate Pastor*

Allyson Anderson, *Resident Pastor at QHPC*

Lisa McLennan, *Parish Associate*

Caroline Thompson/Karley Wilkie-Nadler,
Co-Directors of Child/Families

Fred Spano, *Director of Music*

Gay Pappin, *Organist*

Marsha Cooper, *Church Administrator*

Donnette Dixon, *Administrative Assistant*

Amy Read, *Church Accountant*

Jennifer Dixon Remsen, *Communications*

Dwight Jones, *Weekend Facilities*

Beth Sharpe, *Director of Child Development Center*

GROUP CHAIRS

Administration - Mike Bolewitz

Child Development Center - Jeremy Caskey

Christian Education & Formation - Elizabeth Stearns

Congregational Life - Michelle Bentley

Mission - Karey Tom

Worship - Catherine Miller