



March 19, 2026

Dear South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church Family,

I want to make you aware of an important SMPC staff update. Easter Sunday will be Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer's last Sunday in worship before he begins a three-month sabbatical on Monday, April 6. He will return to the office on Tuesday, July 7, and will be back at the organ console on Sunday, July 12.

According to SMPC's employee handbook, full-time clergy and program staff are allowed to take a paid, three-month sabbatical after seven (7) years of service and every seven (7) years thereafter. The time away is meant to be a time of rest, reflection and rejuvenation.

Over the three months, Zach plans to explore how, together, music and rest form the spiritual life of the church musician and congregation. He will seek to rediscover rest not as a break from ministry, but as a sacred rhythm within it. Through study, reflection and travel, he will explore how the act of making music and the intentional practice of rest shape us into more whole, attentive and spiritually formed disciples.

During his sabbatical, Zach will fully disconnect from church life. In his absence, Ann Carney and Sarah Abushakra will take turns serving as organist, and Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Music and Children, will lead the music program and direct all the ensembles. She can be reached at [laura@smpchome.org](mailto:laura@smpchome.org). You are also welcome to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Please join me in praying for Zach's rest and renewal during his sabbatical. May he come back refreshed and inspired!

Dr. Sandy Hull  
Transitional Pastor  
[sandy@smpchome.org](mailto:sandy@smpchome.org)