



From the Pastor

Dear Southminster.

The church of Christ has entered the season of Lent.

During Lent a question which lives in our sub-consciousness, compiled by our experiences of and attached meaning of Lent, surfaces into our consciousness. We ask ourselves; “What must I give up during Lent to grow closer to God?”

Maybe Lent asks us to ask a different question; “What must I *embrace* during Lent to grow closer to God?”

One answer is; “Believe and live what you confess”.

We should remember that what the Apostle’s Creed invites us to confess, is not a belief in “sins” or even “sin”, but rather in the “forgiveness of sins”. It is this forgiveness that constitutes the reality of the life Christ has made. Jesus Christ is the “forgiveness of sins” that has triumphed over sin and sins and it, forgiveness, is this gift that determines and shapes the Christian life.

To believe in “the forgiveness of sins” as a description of the Christian life is to say that the Christian life has at its center not me, but Jesus Christ. He is the only righteousness we have, the only hope that permits us to receive ourselves and others as God’s forgiven children. But in him, our forgiveness is real and we can dare to venture into that ridiculous comedy that is the Christian life, set free to rejoice in the grace that refuses to damn us, or anyone else, or let anyone go.

Want to give something up for lent to get closer to God? Embrace forgiveness. Live forgiveness. One can’t get closer to God than to live that what He was prepared to let his Son die for.

Blessed “forgiveness season” to you.

Rev. Jock O’Connell

Holy Week & Easter Schedule**Palm Sunday, April 2nd**

11:00 AM Service

12:00 PM “Foods of All Nations” Potluck Lunch

Details to come

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

6:00 PM Service

Easter Sunday, April 9th

10:00 AM Service

11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

Help Fill the Easter Eggs

We will soon be accepting donations of candy and small treats which will be used to fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 9th. Please leave your donations in the marked collection basket in the Fellowship Hall by April 2nd. No nut products, please.

Church In The World**RISC Nehemiah Action**

We profess to want to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” Of these three, the first - do justice - is the one we rarely have the chance to do.

The annual RISC Nehemiah Action gives us this chance. March 28th at 6:30 PM at St. Paul’s Baptist Church, people from roughly twenty area congregations will gather to ask our elected officials to do justice for “the least of these” by directing a dedicated stream of funding into an Affordable Housing Trust Fund so that more housing can be built for low-income families. The Richmond area has a deficit of 39,000 units! A robust trust fund is crucial for attracting developers who will build these units. We will also be asking for additional funds to repair or replace mobile homes, where heating/cooling and mold/mildew problems are deplorable.

Your RISC team members would love to invite EVERYBODY to join us. All are welcome, whether you have been involved in RISC before this point or not. St. Paul’s is in a rural setting with lots of parking, at 4247 Creighton Rd (between 64E and 295). There will be carpools leaving from Southminster at 5:15 PM. For more information, call or email Shelley Murray.

New Covenant Mission Fund Disbursement

At the end of 2020, Southminster merged with New Covenant Presbyterian Church. As part of this merger, the former New Covenant property was sold, and a portion of the proceeds reverted to Southminster. A special committee comprised of former New Covenant members was formed to determine how these funds should be used.

The total of funds designated as the New Covenant Mission Fund is \$306,655.00. The committee determined that the funds will be distributed over the course of 6 years. In 2023 \$34,482.37 will be used for the following projects, in keeping with missions that were dear to member of New Covenant. We thank the committee for their hard work and stewardship.

Hunger: Southminster Food Closet - \$6,000

Veterans: Richmond Fisher House - \$6,000

Outreach/Shut Ins: Audio/Visual Equipment \$6,000

Seniors/Ministers: Board of Pensions of the PCUSA for retired ministers - \$6,000

Children: Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands - \$6,000

The dispersal of the remaining \$4,482.37 will be determined at a later date in 2023 or carried over to next year.

Leadership & Planning

Faith Formation Search Team

A search team for our new Faith Formation professional has been formed and is already hard at work. The first stage of the search, reviewing and making updates to the job description, has been completed. The team will now move forward with circulating the job notice to prospective candidates. Session will keep the congregation updated on their progress.

Facilities

Spring Work Party

The Facilities Committee will host a spring work party at Southminster on Saturday, April 1st.

Our day will begin at 8:30 AM. Volunteers are needed to help with chores and small repairs to make sure the building is spruced up and ready for Palm Sunday and Easter. Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM.

We’ll have plenty of jobs available for every skill level. Contact Brown Pearson for details.

Presbyterian Women

Martha Circle
March 1st at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Ruth Circle
March 7th at 2:00 PM
Conference Room

Anna Circle
March 7th at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

Children's Sunday School Changes

Beginning March 5, 2023, the Sunday School Children's Program, "The Gathering" will move from Sundays at 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Children will begin this program in the sanctuary and participate in the Worship Service with their families and will be excused to attend a children's education program prior to the beginning of the sermon. The children will remain in the Sunday School Room designated as "The Gathering" and can be picked up at the end of the Worship Service.

By making this change we hope to create special time centered for the family. We are committed to teaching your children lessons in the Bible and tools to lead a Christian centered life. Not only will we focus on beloved Bible stories, but we also want to include some memory work such as the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology making their worship experience more powerful.

What if you miss a Sunday? Do not worry, we plan to have lessons for the week sent to your child so that you can review at home. If you have any questions or are available to help us during The Children's Program, please contact me or any of the Sunday School teachers.

Laura Pearson

2023 Easter Lily Orders

We will begin taking orders for Easter lilies on Sunday, March 5th. The lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9th. The deadline to order is **Monday, March 27th**. Lilies are \$11.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church.

Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, or you can contact the church office regarding your order.

Session Highlights

- Stay tuned for pre-printed name tags to be available for all members to keep here at the church.
- We are planning a "Meal of All Nations" to follow our Palm Sunday service on April 2nd. Details to come.
- Easter Sunday service will be at 10:00 AM with the Easter Egg Hunt to follow at 11:00 AM.
- We accepted Rodney Shade as a new active member of Southminster Presbyterian Church.

Photographers Wanted

If you attend a Southminster event, consider taking a few pictures and sending them along to the office. Photographs can be used on our website, social media, and promotional materials. You can email your photos to office@southpreschurch.org.

Save the Date: Rise Against Hunger

Our 2023 Rise Against Hunger event has been scheduled for Sunday, October 15th. This is possible due to a very generous, anonymous donor who has funded the 2023 event.

Welcome, New Member!

Rodney & Pat* Shade
4910 Ventura Road
Chesterfield, VA 23832
804-495-7517
rodneyshade560@gmail.com

Directory Updates

Curtis Radt
Cell: 704-999-4701

Karen Radt
Cell: 804-337-6387

Jean Derrenbacker
Cell: 804-310-7354

Marsha Lane
Cell: 804-920-8561

Connie Goodman
cpgoodman@comcast.net

Phil Stillman
c/o Anita Bickel
9417 Kennesaw Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236
804-674-5242

Ramona Clopton
Correction
Apt. 320

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster members and friends. Jeff and I would like to thank you for the cards, texts, and especially the prayers as we have been dealing with my broken ankle! PT has begun and I have an excellent nurse, so I'm feeling truly blessed!

Jeff & Tammy McDonald

March Birthdays

- 1 Ralph Updegrave
- 2 Jane Lewis, Liz Snead, Thomas Swenck
- 5 Ted Coryell, Lynn Hodges
- 7 Jim Hall, ChiChi Huff, Megan Pond,
- 10 Matt Ball
- 14 Janet Crawford, Kylie Lopez
- 15 Katie Roland, Sandy Stegall,
Gabriella Ryan
- 17 Ryan Witcher, Andrew Grogan
- 18 Pattie Pinchbeck
- 22 Anne Dugger, Emily Cruciata,
Andrew Bookman
- 23 Christy Jones
- 26 Matthew Endries
- 27 Andy Lopez
- 28 Mark Endries
- 31 Bernie Chamberlain, Jane Tarter,
Emily Ball

March Anniversaries

- 24 Hal & Debbie King (44)

*Have we missed your birthday or anniversary?
Let the church office know: 804-276-1749.*

March Schedules

*If you cannot be present on your scheduled day,
please notify your schedule's organizer.*

Communion Team

March 5: Team 2

Elder Greeters

- 5 Robin Lapsley
- 12 Frank Grier
- 19 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 26 Jennifer Weddle

Facility Stewards

- 5 Howard Boughton
- 12 Jerry Davis
- 19 Jim Hall
- 26 Mark Endries

Ushers

- 5 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 12 Girl Scout Sunday
- 19 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 26 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

Food Closet

- 2 Barbara Reid, Ann Potts
- 7 Mary Stahl, Rose Spradin
- 9 Bonnie Kowalski, Melba Jolly
- 14 Cheriene McCall, Frank Grier
- 16 Jane Williams, Ann Wilkins
- 21 Rose Spradin, Ann Potts
- 23 Bonnie Kowalski, Shelley Murray
- 28 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 20 Jane Williams, Frank Grier

Southminster Presbyterian Church

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 AM: Martha Circle 4:30 PM RISC Team Mtg. 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	2 10 AM: Balladeers	3 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 7:30 PM: IPCN
5 Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	6 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	9 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	10 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 7:30 PM: IPCN
12 Girl Scout Sun 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 10:15 Pastor's Aids 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	13 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	16 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	17 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 7:30 PM: IPCN
19 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	20 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	23 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	24 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 7:30 AM: IPCN Fasting 7:30 PM: IPCN
26 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	27 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	28 Food Closet 5:15 PM: Carpool to Nehemiah Action 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	30 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	31 7:30 PM: IPCN	
Notes Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.						

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

March 2023



**Changes coming to the
Children's Sunday School Class
beginning Sunday, March 5th**

Read about "The Gathering" on page 4



Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically?

Send an email to office@southpreschurch.org with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.