

### *From the Pastor*

Dear Southminster Family,

It has been just a couple of months since we had our time mixed with celebration of the wonderful years we've spent together in shared ministry and also some tears as I was getting ready to leave you and begin a new call in Ohio. I find myself returning to the wise teacher from Ecclesiastes who reminds us that not everything that happens under the sun is under our control. Sometimes we find ourselves in the middle of season for plucking up, of disorientation. This past week that is what happened to me when I learned that my visa application for my job at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio was rejected.

Upon the recommendation of the lawyer of the College of Wooster, we applied for an H1B visa – for people with special skills. This is the type of visa the college uses to bring in their international faculty members. Since I hold a PhD degree and have the academic qualifications required of their faculty and because of the historic strong ties and close collaboration between the college and Westminster church (located on the college campus), the lawyer assessed that my ministry context at Westminster is eligible for this type of visa. The US Immigration Services (USCIS) rejected our application because: 1. They deemed it necessary for the pastor to spend at least 50% of her time at the college for the church to be eligible for this type of visa; and 2. USCIS decided that to be a pastor does not require special skills meaning at least a bachelors degree, therefore the church is not eligible for this type of visa for this additional reason.

I describe what happened at such length to help you understand how complicated and the US immigration system is and that the H1B visa application was not denied because of any questions related to me personally. Caitlin, the Personnel Committee and the Southminster Session has been wonderful beyond words in the way they rallied around me from the moment I received this news. They decided to renew my contract with Southminster and prayerfully support me as next steps unfold. So I am not leaving you for the time being but will continue to serve in a pastoral capacity supporting Caitlin and your ministry. It is not lost on me that all this is happening during Lent, a season of reorientation of our lives. I know that I can put my trust in God and I am surrounded by a loving and supportive community as I discern next steps. This is an extremely difficult time for both me and Westminster church. Grateful for you and coveting your prayers during this time,

Peace,

### April Highlights

- |                                             |        |                                      |        |
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## Congregational Life

### Holy Week

The very special time of year is approaching when we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. I hope you will all join us for the special worship services we have planned throughout Holy Week. Our hope is to engage believers and seekers of all kinds in the joy of the Easter story.

**Palm Sunday- 11 AM-** A joyful worship celebration proclaiming Jesus as our King! Our young and young at heart will be invited to join in a Palm Sunday Parade during worship. This Sunday is made extra special with the baptism of one of our youngest members- how appropriate for the occasion!

**Maundy Thursday- 7 PM-** A contemplative service that guides the listener through the story of Jesus' last day on earth, accompanied by communion and special music from our Sanctuary Choir. Childcare will be provided for our younger members.

**Good Friday- 12 PM-** A brief mid-day prayer service focused on the meaning of Jesus' death.

**Easter Sunrise- 6:30 AM @ Manchester YMCA-** Greet the day with an Alleluia! Join Rev. Deyerle and our friends at the YMCA for a casual sunrise service on the YMCA lawn.

**Easter Worship- 10 AM-** A service of rejoicing in Jesus' resurrection and the promise of new life for all! This year a special string quartet will accompany our annual singing of the Halleluiahs Chorus. The service will be followed by a reception and Easter Egg Hunt for our kids on our new playground!

## Church in the World

### Southminster Yard Sale

Southminster will hold a yard sale on Saturday, June 15th from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The proceeds from the yard sale will support church projects including missions. Everyone is invited to donate items for the sale. **Please note that we will not accept the following items: Shoes. Car Seats. Mattresses. Televisions (other than flat screen). Weapons. Large furniture items (i.e. entertainment centers).**

This year we will accept clothing for all ages. Items must be gently used, clean, and in good condition.

Donations may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates. Receipts will be given upon request. Please do not bring items to the church outside of the designated drop-off hours. If you cannot make it to one of the scheduled drop-offs, please contact David Huff, Dianna Scott, or Dixie Kovacs to schedule a time.

Thurs. May 30	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Sat. June 8	3:00 – 5:00 PM
Sat. June 1	3:00 – 5:00 PM	Tues. June 11	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Tues. June 4	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Thurs. June 13	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Thurs. June 6	5:00 – 7:00 PM		

We are in need of volunteers to help take in donations, set up, work on the day of the sale, and packing up the leftover items to give to Goodwill. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available in the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about the yard sale, please contact Dixie Kovacs (804-745-0963), David & ChiChi Huff (804-276-8538), or Dianna Scott (804-398-0226).

**Finance Update**

Members of the Finance Ministry Team attended an event on March 23<sup>rd</sup> sponsored by the Presbytery of the James. The event, entitled *Growing Generous Stewards*, shared insights on key topics from the book “Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation” with four key areas of focus - Biblical Insights, Ask, Thank, Tell. The session was led by Pastor Charles Lane who is the Pastor for Stewardship and Generosity at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota. In the coming months you will hear and see more about this!

**Leadership & Planning****Spring Picnic & Playground Dedication**

Save the date for our Spring Picnic and Playground Dedication on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Several months ago Leadership and Planning envisioned a special project: A new playground for our children! After much prayerful planning and the special generosity of the Christopher Stone Memorial Fund we were able to install a new playground in March, just in time for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

We plan to give our new playground a proper welcome and blessing on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> following worship. The family and friends who helped create in Christopher Stone Memorial Fund will be with us to help dedicate the playground. Afterwards our children are invited to test it out while the adults share a potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall. We are also planning to have a bouncy house and have invited our friends from Camp Hanover to bring us some furry friends to make the festive day complete!

**Facilities****Spring Work Party**

Join us for the Spring Work Party on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – Noon. It’s time to get the shovels and rakes, hammers and tools out and get busy making the church building and grounds pristine!

There are jobs available for volunteers of every skill level, including window washing, cleaning the kitchen, trimming shrubbery, tightening hardware, and general clearing out.

With only two weeks to go before Easter we want to make the place look good. Come out and help and join in the fun. Lunch will be served.

**Presbyterian Women****Ruth Circle**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room

**Anna Circle**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

**Martha Circle**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Christian Life classroom

**Esther Circle**

April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Fellowship Hall

### **Liberation Veteran Services Mission**

We are well into our second year of serving our local homeless veterans by providing dinners to Liberation Veteran Services several times a year. We are one of many churches who support their meals program and we are honored to be a part of this mission. I promised one man, at his request, to thank our entire congregation for the meals we provide!

We also would like to thank those who have shopped, cooked, served dinner, and donated items to this valuable mission. Our next scheduled meal is Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we will be collecting paper towels and toilet paper to take to LVS. A marked box for donations will be available in the Fellowship Hall. We are also scheduled to serve dinner on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to get involved in LVS, please contact Susan Pharr at [shpharr@gmail.com](mailto:shpharr@gmail.com).

### **RISC News**

Southminster has recently committed to be a partner church in RISC (Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities). RISC's mission is "To build a powerful community of racially, religiously, and socioeconomically diverse congregations who address the root causes of injustice in the Greater Richmond Region." Each year, RISC members choose one "big issue" to address. Current issues, chosen in years past but ongoing, are elementary reading in area public schools, training for Chesterfield County teachers in the specifics of trauma-informed care for CCPS students, and job training. The big issue for 2019 is housing, particularly addressing Richmond's eviction rate, which is the second highest in the country. Interested? Check out the website [www.riscrichmond.org](http://www.riscrichmond.org) or contact Katie Thomison, Cathy Kirtley, or Shelley Murray (897-3571).

### **Chair Yoga Update**

Every Monday morning since February 4<sup>th</sup>, Southminster members, friends, and neighbors have gathered in the Fellowship Hall to take advantage of our new chair yoga class taught by Pam DeWitt of YouFit. We are pleased to report that we have had steady attendance of between 20 and 30 people every week with new people, members and non-members, coming to every class. We would like to thank the Southminster Session for their support of this venture and to all of those who have made it so successful.

Chair yoga is open to men and women of all ages and meets on Mondays\* from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Chair yoga is a wonderful way to improve flexibility, balance, and general fitness. The class is designed so that participants can find their own comfort level; it is open to the community and is free (a free will offering is accepted at each class to help cover expenses). It is not necessary to attend every class. If you've been curious about chair yoga but never had the opportunity to try it, this is the ideal opportunity.

\*Class will occasionally be cancelled due to weather or other events. There will be no class on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Session Highlights**

- Approved modifications of job descriptions of the Pastoral Assistant and Coordinator of Faith Formation and changes to budget line item designations
- Approved Facility rental rate increase
- Approved upcoming baptismal dates for Phillipa Solaimani and Hagen Ney Smith
- Approved weddings for Katie Greenberg and James Liesfield in November

## **Save the Date for Camp Hanover Day Camp**

Camp Hanover will bring their traveling day camp to Southminster from July 29 – August 2, 2019. Day camp is open to all children entering K – 6<sup>th</sup> grades; neighbors, friends, and visitors are welcome. Camp will be held in the Fellowship Hall and on the church grounds, and will run from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. While Southminster provides the space, Camp Hanover will provide experienced camp counselors who will conduct the daily activities.

The cost of camp is \$150 for the week, per child. Scholarships are available. If cost is a burden, or if you have questions or need more information regarding Day Camp, please contact Sue Rhodes at [cabinsue@verizon.net](mailto:cabinsue@verizon.net) or (804) 639-1096. Registration is now open, and new registrations will be taken through July 1<sup>st</sup> for paper registrations and through July 19<sup>th</sup> for online registrations. Register for camp today online at [www.camphanover.org/southminster19](http://www.camphanover.org/southminster19) or look for registration forms in the Narthex.

### **Toddler Fun Week**

During the week of Day Camp, July 29 – August 2, we will offer a special program of Bible stories and fun activities for toddlers and preschoolers. The toddler program will run from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Parents are welcome to drop their children off for all or part of the fun, or stay and play themselves. Beginning in May there will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex for participants and volunteers. If we have a need a nursery will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, contact Laura Pearson at [LauraPearson@gmail.com](mailto:LauraPearson@gmail.com) or 804-387-3913.

### **Remember in Prayer**

Please pray for our military personnel, Sue Carlton, Jean Collier, Bob Davis, Matt Davis, Carolyn Griles, Bob Hall, Ann Kearns, Bev Lamberton, Marsha Lane, Alberta Lindsey, Earl & Donna Medicus, Adele Robertson, Billy Smith, Dave Thomas, Howard Vann, Ryan Witcher.

### **Southminster Notes**

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord and the generosity of the Lord. Thanks be to Southminster Presbyterian Church for the use of your choir room. It is a joyous place to serve you in music and we anticipate many more opportunities to bless our Lord and people like you.

*The Balladeers of JMCCA Band*

Thank you all for the outpouring of good wishes on the occasion of my 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Southminster's office manager. Time flies when you're keeping busy and having a lot of fun, so it's little wonder that it sometimes feels like I just started yesterday. I want to thank Southminster's members, Caitlin, Enikö, and the rest of the staff for making this a wonderful place to come to work.

*Joni Ervine, Office Manager*

## ***April Birthdays***

- 2 Frank Farrington, Madison Pinchbeck
- 3 Chelsea Dixon, Kate Osborne
- 5 Jack Daniel, Trenton Williams,  
Lynne Reeser
- 6 Isabella Paterson
- 7 Deb Ellenberg, Chris Endries
- 9 Cindy Howlett
- 12 Ron Raetz
- 13 Marty Griffin
- 14 Linda Bookman, Bonnie Endries
- 17 Mitchel Kirtley
- 18 Zach Pond, Andrew Smith
- 20 Bev Lamberton
- 21 Marsha Lane
- 22 Elizabeth Adiele
- 23 Joyce Lapsley
- 24 Russ Ellenberg
- 25 Sue Carlton, Erin McDonald
- 28 Edna Warncke
- 29 Declan Bowser, Bonnie Davis, Mary Stahl

## ***April Anniversaries***

- 1 Richard & Barbara Jordanger (58)
- 5 Zachary & Morgan Krigelman (5)
- 6 Andrew & Mary MacKenzie Swenck (6)
- 6 Dan & Kitty Bice (33)
- 9 Will & Alicia Willis (24)
- 14 Rick & Pat Abbott (45)
- 20 Dan & Susan Pharr (22)

*Have we missed your birthday or anniversary?*

*Let the church office know: 804-276-1749.*

## ***April Schedules***

### **Communion Teams**

April 7: Team 3 – Trays

April 21<sup>st</sup>: Team 1 - Intinction

## ***April Schedules, cont.***

### **Elder Greeters**

- 7 Tracey Williams
- 14 James Deyerle
- 21 Kitty Bice
- 28 Jan Belote

### **Facility Stewards**

- 7 Howard Boughton
- 14 Jerry Davis
- 21 Jim Hall
- 28 Lynne Hodges

### **Door Greeters**

- 7 George & Barbara Reid
- 14 George & Barbara Reid
- 21 Rick & Pat Abbott
- 28 Rich & Bonnie Kowalski

### **Ushers**

- 7 Jan Belote, David, Cathy, & Mitchel Kirtley
- 14 Jan Belote, David, Cathy, & Mitchel Kirtley
- 21 Gail DeCosta, Rich & Bonnie Kowalski,  
David Huff
- 28 Gail DeCosta, Rich & Bonnie Kowalski,  
David Huff

### **Flower Delivery**

- 7 *Communion*
- 14 Karen Stafford
- 21 *Easter Lilies*
- 28 Jane Conrad

### **Food Closet**

- 2 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 4 Jane Tarter, Lyndale Baptist
- 9 Shelley Murray, Mary Stahl
- 11 Melba Jolly, Lyndale Baptist
- 16 Margaret Hall, Terry Liendecker
- 18 Mary Stahl, Lyndale Baptist
- 23 Shelley Murray, Lyndale Baptist
- 25 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 30 Mary Stahl, Terry Liendecker

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 6:30 PM: BSA Scouts	<b>2</b> Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 7 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>3</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle 6 PM: Pot Luck 6:30 PM: Lenten Study 7:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>5</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>6</b> 8 AM: Spring Work Party 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>7</b> Communion 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Kehillah 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: First Sunday Prayers 12 PM: Passover Lunch 3 PM: IPCN	<b>8</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 11 AM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: BSA Scouts	<b>9</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Esther Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM: Lenten Study 7:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>12</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>13</b> 4 PM: IPCN Event 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>14</b> Palm Sunday 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Solaimani Baptism 3 PM: IPCN 4 PM: IPCN Event	<b>15</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 11 AM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: BSA Scouts	<b>16</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM: Lenten Study 7:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Maundy Thursday Food Closet 7 PM: Maundy Thursday Service	<b>19</b> Good Friday 12 PM: Good Friday Service 6 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>20</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>21</b> Easter 6:30 AM: YMCA Sunrise Service 10 AM: Worship 11 AM: Reception & Egg Hunt 3 PM: IPCN	<b>22</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 11 AM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: BSA Scouts	<b>23</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM: Lenten Study 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>26</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>27</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>28</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Reception for Katie Thomson 3 PM: IPCN	<b>29</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 11 AM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: BSA Scouts	<b>30</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN				
Notes						
<b>There will be no Chair Yoga class on April 1st.</b>						

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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[www.southpreschurch.org](http://www.southpreschurch.org)

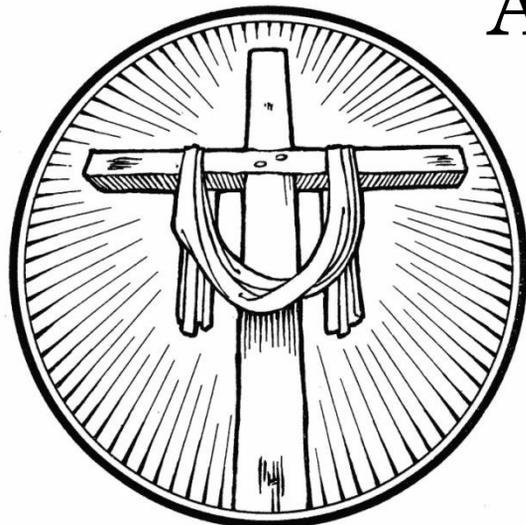
[office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org)

**Return Service Requested**

**April 2019**

**Easter Sunday**

**April 21, 2019**



**6:30 AM Sunrise Service at the  
Manchester YMCA**

**10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary**

**11:00 AM Reception & Egg Hunt**

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically?

Send an email to [office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org) with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.