



From the Pastor

Luke 2:8-15

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Beloved Southminster.....

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost. **THIS IS TRUE: FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS SON SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM SHALL NOT DIE, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction. **THIS IS TRUE: I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.**

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever. **THIS IS TRUE: FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN, IN WHOM AUTHORITY WILL REST, AND WHOSE NAME WILL BE PRINCE OF PEACE.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil that seek to rule the world. **THIS IS TRUE, TO ME IS GIVEN AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE WORLD.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything. **THIS IS TRUE, I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL PEOPLE, AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHALL SEE VISIONS AND YOUR OLD FOLK SHALL DREAM DREAMS.**

It is not true that our dreams of liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and its history. **THIS IS TRUE: THE HOUR COMES, AND IT IS NOW, THAT TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.**

(Affirmation from South Africa)

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Lessons and Carols 2023

The Sanctuary Choir is hard at work preparing an exceptional musical celebration for the Christmas season.

The Service of Lessons and Carols follows a structure which dates back to the late 19th century. It features nine scripture lessons recounting the miraculous story of Jesus' birth, followed by a carol or song that reflects on the lesson's message. Join us for our Service of Lessons and Carols service on **Sunday, December 17th at 11:00 AM**, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.



Join us on Christmas Eve

11:00 AM

Traditional service in the Sanctuary

6:00 PM

**Family service with communion
in the Sanctuary**



Progressive Dinner

The Southminster Progressive Dinner will take place on Saturday, December 9th. Dinner guests will progress from host house to host house, beginning with appetizers at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:15 PM and dessert at 9:00 PM. The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person. RSVP and hosting forms are available in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Brown at 804-347-8895.

Church in the World

Thanksgiving Basket Drive Results

Southminster members went above and beyond once again for the CCHASM Thanksgiving Basket drive. In October we pledged 30 complete Thanksgiving baskets to CCHASM. Through your generosity we were able to deliver 47 complete baskets to be distributed to our friends and neighbors in need in the community. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, and to our dedicated volunteers who transported the baskets to the fair grounds for distribution.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years..

Giving to RISC

As you consider year-end, tax-deductible charitable giving, please consider RISC, as they work for affordable and healthy housing and a reduction in gun violence in 2024. You may give online at <https://www.riscrichmond.org/invest> or you may mail a check to RISC, PO Box 4931, Richmond VA 23220. If you have questions, see Mary Stahl or Shelley Murray.

2023 Contributions

Contributions for 2023 must be received by the church office by December 31, 2023 in order to be included in this year’s contribution statements. Thank you to everyone who has so faithfully supported Southminster over the past year!

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who turned in your pledge card on Commitment Sunday. If you weren’t able to be with us that day, you may still turn your pledge card into the office at any time.

We encourage you to turn your Stewardship pledges in by mid-December in order to be included in the 2024 budget process. Pledges can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate during worship. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex.

Leadership & Planning

2024 Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Following worship service that day, a luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the Annual Meeting. Please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share for the luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Facilities

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, the decision to cancel services will be made by the pastor and the facilities chairperson by 7:30 AM. By 8:00 AM, closing notices will be submitted to local Richmond CBS, NBC, and ABC stations, a notification will be sent to the email list, and a notice will be posted on the church Facebook page. As always, use your best judgement about driving in chancy weather. When in doubt, you can always join us online! The safety of our members always comes first.

<p><u>Presbyterian Women</u></p> <p>Anna Circle December 4th at 6:30 PM Debbie Greenberg’s residence</p> <p>Martha Circle December 6th at 10:00 AM Conference Room</p> <p>Ruth Circle December 5th at 2:00 PM Conference Room</p>

<p><u>Presbyterian Women</u></p> <p>Anna Circle January 8th at 6:30 PM Debbie Greenberg’s residence</p> <p>Martha Circle January 3rd at 10:00 AM Conference Room</p> <p>Ruth Circle January 2nd at 2:00 PM Conference Room</p>
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Girl Scout Pancake Breakfast

Girl Scout Troop 603 will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 10th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come enjoy a hot breakfast before worship. While there is not a fee to attend, we do suggest a donation of \$5 per person which helps support the Troop.

Christmas Office Hours

The Southminster office will be closed on December 25th & 26th for Christmas. On December 21st – 22nd, and December 27th – 29th the office will be staffed by a volunteer from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Confirmation Class

Southminster Presbyterian Church will once again offer classes for older youth who have expressed an interest in joining formally joining our church. If you or someone in your family have an interest or would like more information, please contact the Pastor at the church office.

The Gathering News: Communion Class

Calling all parents and children! Have you ever wondered about preparing children to receive communion? When is the right time to allow them to take part? Where are good references to use to answer their questions and yours?

On January 21 and 28, 2024 the Gathering time will focus our teachings on communion and what it means. We will explore the Bible stories surrounding the Last Supper, how our Communion teams prepare for Communion Sunday, make a loaf of bread for a communion service, and have a question-and-answer time with our own Reverend Jock. Parents and children are invited to attend.

Southminster Presbyterian Church celebrates Communion on the first Sunday of every month as well as other significant religious holidays. On February 4, 2024, Southminster will once again celebrate communion with a Special Children’s Worship/Communion Service. Mark your calendars! There will be no Gathering on this Sunday as the children will attend and participate in the entire service. For questions or comments, please contact Laura Pearson.

Session Highlights

- Southminster has officially welcomed Voices of Jubilee to hold regular meetings in our facility. A representative from Voices of Jubilee will preach on Sunday, January 14th.
- The Southminster office will remain partially open during the week of Christmas. Volunteers will man the office from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Dec. 21-22 and Dec. 27-29.
- The Finance Committee expects to have our new accounting system fully integrated by the first of the year.

This is my Christmas prayer for my family, thus also for you, because in Christ we all are family.....

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest
stay with us for this day.
Bring to our house your poverty, for then we shall be rich.

Bring to our house your pain, that sharing it we may also see your brokenness.
Bring to our house your understanding of us, that we may be freed to learn more of You.
Bring to our house all those who hurry or hobble behind you, that we may meet you as the Savior of all.
Bring to our house your Holy Spirit, that this may be a cradle of love. With friend, with stranger, with neighbor, and well-known ones, be among us today.

The doors of our house we open and the doors of our hearts, we leave ajar.
AMEN

Blessed Christmas,
Jock & Diane O'Connell

Chair Yoga Class

Would you like to add some fun and fitness to your New Year's resolutions? Consider checking out Southminster's weekly chair yoga class. Our class meets every Monday from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Under the guidance of a professional instructor, we do exercises for better breathing, stretching, and balance, not to mention having fellowship and fun.

We're always happy to see new faces! You do not have to have any experience, and you are encouraged to work at your own pace. There is no registration or commitment; just come as you can. The class is free, though a free-will offering is taken at every class to cover the cost of our instructor.

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Church family,

Shirley and I are so thankful for all the calls and visits.

*Gratefully,
Don Reed*

Dear Southminster Family,

Words cannot fully express our gratitude to our Southminster family for all the cards, calls, food, expressions of sympathy and the outpouring of love as we grieve the loss of our dear Mary Kaye. We have been comforted and uplifted by your love and faith.

*Blessings and love
Brown & Laura and the Pearson family*

Notes will be published as space permits. Some notes will carry over to next month's newsletter.

December Birthdays

- 1 Haddie Knight
- 3 Curtis Kearns
- 5 Jason Endries, Joyce Grier, Riki Stone
- 7 Brown Pearson, Kathy Liesfeld
- 9 Kate Grier
- 10 Pat Thomas
- 13 Reggie Stennett
- 14 Ginny Williams, Marsha Paulson
- 17 Adele Robertson
- 18 Anne Smith, Billy Smith
- 20 Shirley Martin, Jenny Schiller
- 24 Jenny Williams
- 25 Al Stafford
- 26 Merrill Dugger, David Lamberton,
Abby Willis
- 27 Julia Dugger, Norris Hall
- 29 Jeff McDonald
- 31 Kitty Bice

December Anniversaries

- 10 Courtney & Lil Price (35)
- 12 Jim & Margaret Hall (59)
- 16 Caroline & Coveh Solaimani (6)
- 18 Jim & Debbie Dugger (35)
- 20 Jim & Betsy Davis (54)
- 21 Bob & Judy Lee (55)
- 22 Tom & Shelley Murray (44)
- 26 Ralph & Judy Updegrove (63)
- 29 Dennis & Riki Stone (49)
- 30 Ron & Susan Witcher (45)

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

December Schedules

Communion Team

24: Team 3

Elder Greeters

- 3 Jennifer Weddle
- 10 Mary Stahl
- 17 Clay Spillman
- 24 Jerry Davis
- 31 Curtis Radt

Ushers

- 3 Clay & Debbie Spillman,
Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane
- 10 Jerry & Cheriene McCall, Jim & Margaret Hall
- 17 Rick & Pat Abbott, Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane
- 24 Guy Dixon, David Huff,
Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams
- 31 David & Lynne Reeser, Chuck Greenberg,
Frank Grier

Food Closet

- 5 Frank Grier, Cheriene McCall
- 7 Melba Jolly, Ann Wilkins
- 12 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 14 Bonnie Kowalksi, Gail DeCosta
- 19 Rose Spradin, Shelley Murray
- 21 Jane Williams, Ann Potts
- 26 Closed
- 28 Ann Wilkins, Cheriene McCall

Children's Sunday School

- 3 Melanie Miller
Choir practice after worship
- 10 Melanie Miller
Choir practice after worship
- 17 No Sunday School
Children performing for Lessons & Carols
- 24 No Sunday School
Children singing with choir
- 31 No Sunday School

January Birthdays

- 1 Connie Goodman, Don Reed
- 4 Holly Coryell
- 5 Danise Warren, Curtis Radt
- 6 Bob Davis, Frank Grier, Grier Swenck
- 11 Karen Radt
- 12 Lauren Pinchbeck
- 15 AJ Bookman, Jonathan Derrenbacker
- 16 Hagen Smith
- 17 Bobby Adiele, Bill Morrow Sanders
- 20 Sydney Kirtley
- 22 Ramona Clopton
- 23 Bonnie Cary, Branch Hobson
- 25 Rachel Clay, Freya Harper
- 26 Charles Reed, Rhonda Clopton
- 27 Betsy Davis
- 28 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 29 Patsy Hevener
- 30 Katie Daniel
- 31 Star Lopez

January Anniversaries

- 2 Guy & Dorothy Dixon (33)
- 14 Bill & Janet Crawford (35)
- 15 Harry & Becky Rowan (58)

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

January Schedules

Communion Teams

Our next communion will be on February 4th

Elder Greeters

Schedule Coming Soon

Ushers

- 7 Kathy Liesfeld, Tracey Williams,
Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane
- 14 Rich Kowalski, David Huff, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 21 Laura Pearson, David Huff,
Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane
- 28 Jerry Davis, Rick & Pat Abbott, Guy Dixon

Food Closet

Schedule Coming Soon

Children's Sunday School

Schedule Coming Soon

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

December 2023 / January 2024



Christmas Eve

**Join us for worship on
Sunday, December 24th
11:00 AM / 6:00 PM**

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.

Southminster Presbyterian Church

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	4 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7:30 PM: IPCN	5 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 10 AM: Martha Circle 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	7 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	8 7:30 PM: IPCN	9 7:30 PM: IPCN 2 PM: Piano Recital 7:30 PM: IPCN
10 9 AM: Girl Scout Pancake Breakfast 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN (FH)	11 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	12 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	13 1 PM: Robison Funeral & Reception 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	14 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	15 7:30 PM: IPCN	16 7:30 PM: IPCN
17 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Lessons & Carols Service 3 PM: IPCN (FH)	18 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	19 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	20 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	21 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	22 7:30 PM: IPCN	23 7:30 PM: IPCN
24 Christmas Eve 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN 6 PM: Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 Office Closed 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	27 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	28 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	29 7:30 PM: IPCN	30 7:30 PM: IPCN
31 New Year's Eve 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN 6 PM: IPCN Party in the Fellowship Hall		Notes				

Southminster Presbyterian Church

January 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	2 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	3 10 AM: Martha Circle 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	4 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	5 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 7:30 PM: IPCN
7 Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	8 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	9 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	10 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	11 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	12 7:30 PM: IPCN	13 7:30 PM: IPCN	
14 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	15 ML King Day Office Closed 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	16 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	17 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	18 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	19 6 PM: Girl Scouts Sleepover 7:30 PM: IPCN	20 7:30 PM: IPCN (8 AM: Girl Scouts Out)	
21 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	22 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	23 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	24 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	25 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 5 PM: RISC Meeting	26 7:30 PM: IPCN	27 7:30 PM: IPCN	
28 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Cong. Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	29 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	30 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	31 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)				
		Notes					