



---

***From the Pastor***

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” - John 15:12*

Friends,

In the 15th chapter of John, Jesus is sharing his last words with his disciples, knowing that his time with them is drawing to a close. He reminds his disciples that he calls them his friends, therefore calling upon them to be good friends to one another, loving one another as he has loved them.

All of you should have received a letter from me earlier this week announcing that my last Sunday at Southminster will be March 6th after which I will transition to my new call as Designated Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio. As I have been praying about this big change in both my life and the life of Southminster, I keep coming back to those words of Jesus' commanding us to love one another. Over the past eight years, I have addressed all of my newsletters and weekly emails to you with the word, "Friends." Every time I write it, I am thinking of Jesus' command for us to love one another with the same love of friendship that he first gave to us. Certainly, I'm not thinking of myself as Jesus! But I am thinking of myself as a disciple, just like you, who has received such life-changing love from God and been commanded to share it.

Although soon I will no longer fill the role as your pastor, I will always consider you my friends in Christ. It has been a wonderful two-way friendship, in which I feel I have received just as much love and friendship from all of you as I could have ever possibly given. As I look to this coming month, I hope to prioritize spending time together, sharing in that friendship, and saying our goodbyes.

After March 6th, guided by the Presbytery of the James and many generations of pastoral wisdom, I will take a step back from being in regular communication with my Southminster friends. This is spiritually healthy for me, as it will allow me to focus on helping my family through this big transition and make a strong and faithful beginning in my new call. It is also healthy for Southminster, as it gives you space to discern where God is leading you next and do the good work of welcoming in your Interim Pastor. You are welcome to remain linked with me online, to follow photos of the girls and share well wishes. But the role of pastor in offering care and guidance, or performing duties like weddings, funerals, or baptisms will no longer be my place. I know that God has wonderful and gifted future leaders in store for you and I look forward to being able to cheer you on from afar.

Peace,

***Pastor Caitlin***

**Covid Worship Updates**

Good news! We are definitely past the peak of this Omicron wave, as I write this the numbers are still extremely high but they are trending downwards. This means we will soon be able to meet again in person when the numbers go back below 14%. Please stay tuned to your Southminster This Week emails and the church website, [www.southpreschurch.org](http://www.southpreschurch.org), for updates!

**Church In The World****SouperBowl of Caring**

We will celebrate our annual SouperBowl of Caring fundraiser on Sunday, February 13th! Our youth will be leading the charge as we raise money and collect food to support our Southminster Food Closet. Here are the ways you can give:

- 1) Drive Through Food Drop Off: Following worship our youth will be waiting in the church circle drive from 12-1pm to collect any food or financial donations you would like to contribute!
- 2) Mail or Online Financial Contribution: Mark your contribution "SouperBowl" and we will make sure your offering gets designated to fight hunger in our neighborhood.
- 3) If we are back in-person for worship, you can join us in our tradition of dropping your donation in the soup pot marked for your favorite team!

**RISC Team Meeting**

*And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt 25:40)*

Are you ever angered by yet another gun death? Are you ever discouraged by the number of homeless people you encounter? Do you know anyone who lives in a mobile home park that is in disrepair? **Would you like to do something about this feeling of helplessness?**

RISC is a group of 22 congregations in the RVA area who are addressing these problems, and there is power in numbers! Currently, we are devising strategies to encourage city and county officials to DO something - and RISC provides them with ideas and specific recommendations. If you'd like to know more, please contact Shelley Murray; we'd love to have you join us.

Our next meeting of the Southminster RISC team is **February 13**, right after the worship service. We hope to be in person, but this might be a ZOOM meeting - so stay tuned! We will be deciding how to include more of our friends in the quest to correct some of these tragic stories.

**More About Qualified Charitable Distributions**

With a new giving and tax year beginning we feel it is appropriate to issue a reminder of the advantages of Qualified Charitable Distributions for those who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution from an Individual Retirement Account. For IRA's held in Fidelity a QCD can be easily executed online without involving an agent. Other fund families have similar user-friendly procedures.

QCD Facts:

- QCD's reduce your taxable income by the amount of the QCD which is essentially equivalent to a tax deduction which can be important for taxpayers who can't itemize deductions due to the current high Standard Deduction.
- The maximum QCD per year is \$100,000 but with no minimum a number of small donations can be made.
- QCD's don't have to be given all at once but can be set up as periodic donations such as monthly or quarterly.

**Leadership & Planning**

**Welcome, Mary Bielen**

Mary Bielen, a candidate for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will join our staff on February 1st as our new Covenant Pastor for Faith Formation and Congregational Care. Mary comes to us from the Maumee Valley Presbytery where she has been serving as Pulpit Supply and as a member of their Committee on Ministry. Her work experience includes church educational ministry and chaplaincy. Her leisure time pursuits include reading, gardening and cooking new dishes. Mary and her husband Ken have lived in Bowling Green, OH for the past 33 years where they raised their three adult children. He is the author of five books on popular music. They are both looking forward to their relocation.

**Nominations for Open Elder Position**

The 2022 Nominating Committee is accepting nominations and self-nominations to fill the vacant session seat left by the death of our dear Terry Liendecker. This unexpired term will be two years, starting as soon as possible and ending in December 2023. If you know someone who might be interested in serving please contact Jennifer Weddle, chair of the 2022 Nominating Committee.

**Presbyterian Women**

**Ruth Circle**  
No plans to meet in February

**Anna Circle**  
February 1st at 6:30 PM  
Debbie Greenberg's residence

**Martha Circle**  
No plans to meet in February

### **Handbell Festival**

The Southminster Ringers Bell Choir has a special event coming up! On Saturday, February 26, 2022 we will attend an all day workshop and Handbell Festival at Grace Lutheran Church in Chester, Virginia. We have been working hard to learn all the music for the festival, and we look forward to the fellowship as well as learning new techniques and skills to bring back to our congregation!

### **Sanctuary Choir**

The Southminster Sanctuary Choir is taking a break until the recent surge in Covid cases has passed. We are doing this in the interest of keeping the most vulnerable among us healthy and safe. We will resume singing as soon as possible!

### **Lent Class with Brett Eisenhauer**

Southminster intern Brett Eisenhauer will lead the Contemporary Issues Sunday School class in a Lenten series throughout the month of March. The series is called "Good Creation and Our Collective Call." We'll be looking at our call to be stewards of creation and what we can do to care for it. Each week will highlight a different segment of creation and the actions we can take. Be on the lookout for more information in the March newsletter.

### **Congregational Life Spring/Summer Team Meeting**

We have had a snowy January, but as we look forward to the spring it is time to put together our Congregational Life Spring/Summer Team! This team of volunteers make a short-term commitment to help with the Lent, Easter, and Pentecost seasonal programming of the church year! We will meet on Wednesday, February 16th from 7pm-8pm.

This year we are particularly looking for volunteers to help with our Easter Reception and Summer Bible Fun Week! If you are interested in anything from leading a project to just lending a hand please email [pastor@southpreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@southpreschurch.org) for more information.

### **Session Highlights**

- Examination and Approval of incoming Elder Class of 2025 Jennifer Weddle, Robin Lapsley, and Clay Spillman, and Mary Stahl of Class 2024.
- Approved Baptism of Crosby Solaimani on February 6th 2022.
- Approved 2022 Budget Amendments.
- Elected Anne Smith and Rich Kowalski as commissioners for February 19th 2022 Presbytery meeting.

## **Liberation Veteran Services Meal Mission**

As most of you know, we cook and deliver several meals each year to homeless veterans who are residents of the Liberation Veteran Services. As a non profit organization, LVS relies on the generosity of local churches and businesses to provide a wide array of services to Veterans in crisis.

This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year for providing dinner meals to a group of approximately 30 men. Because of the pandemic, we have not been able to serve and fellowship in person. We keep hoping that will change soon, as those interactions are extremely rewarding and so much appreciated by the residents and staff and volunteers.

We always welcome additional volunteers who are interested in being a part of this successful mission. Typically, we begin our planning via email approximately 2 weeks ahead of the scheduled date. Planning includes selecting a menu and recruiting volunteers for one of several tasks! Depending on COVID protocols, you can volunteer to cook (at home or in the church kitchen), grocery shop, or transport and serve. There is something for everyone, and everyone's contribution, large or small, is greatly appreciated.

### **2022 Dates**

Saturday, February 5

Friday, March 4

Friday, May 6

Saturday, August 20

Thursday, October 20

Please contact Susan Pharr ([shpharr@gmail.com](mailto:shpharr@gmail.com)) (804-690-5436) if you are interested in getting involved.

### **Directory Updates**

**Pat Thomas**

pthomas0789@gmail.com

### **Southminster Notes**

Dear Friends,

Jim joins me in thanking our church family for your prayers, support, cards, calls, and food we received during my recent hospital stay. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Love,

*Ada Park*

## ***February Birthdays***

- 1 Gina Taggart
- 2 Carolyn Surber
- 4 Jim Davis
- 5 Meleana Grogan
- 7 Barbara Reid
- 9 Curtis Spitler
- 10 Art Williams, Michael Willis
- 11 Lou Ann Daniel
- 12 Austin Smith, Jones Hollingsworth
- 19 Toni Briggs, Gregory Conrad
- 20 Kerry Knight
- 21 Wanda Carneal, Grady Osborne
- 22 Melinda Bookman
- 23 Dan Pharr, Barbara Jordanger
- 24 Anna Pinchbeck
- 26 Tracey Bowser
- 28 Susan Teller

## ***February Anniversaries***

- 28 Peggy & Bill Morrow Sanders (18)

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

## ***February Schedules***

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

### **Communion Team**

February 6: Team 1 (Unit)

### **Elder Greeters**

- 6 Robin Lapsley
- 13 Clay Spillman
- 20 Rich Kowalski
- 27 Anne Smith

### **Ushers**

- 6 BSA Scouts 2801
- 13 Jan Belote, Moses Adiele, Margaret & Jim Hall
- 20 Dennis Stone, Chuck Greenberg,  
Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 27 Dennis Stone, Chuck Greenberg,  
Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

### **Visitation Team**

- 13 David & ChiChi Huff
- 20 David & ChiChi Huff

### **Food Closet**

- 1 Shelley Murray, Margaret Hall
- 3 Bonnie Kowalski, Frank Grier
- 8 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 10 Cheriene McCall, Melba Jolly
- 15 Jane Williams, Shelley Murray
- 17 Jane Tarter, Frank Grier
- 22 Rose Spradin, Margaret Hall
- 24 Ann Potts, Melba Jolly

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Food Closet	2 10 AM: Martha Circle 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	3 6 PM: Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	4 7:30 PM: IPCN	5 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN
6 Communion 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship	7 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga	8 Food Closet	9 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	10 Food Closet	11 7:30 PM: IPCN	12 7:30 PM: IPCN
3 PM: IPCN	6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	17 Food Closet	18 7:30 PM: IPCN	19 7:30 PM: IPCN
13 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: SouperBowl of Caring Drive Thru 12 PM: RISC Team Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	14 Valentines Day 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga	15 Food Closet	16 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Cong. Life Spring & Summer Team Meeting 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	10 AM: Triad	7:30 PM: IPCN	10 AM: Girl Scout Cookie Sorting
20 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	21 10 AM: Balladeers 10 AM: GS Drive Thru Cookie Sale 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 Food Closet	23 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	24 Food Closet	25 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 8 AM: Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall 7:30 PM: IPCN
27 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	28 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN					

**Please Read:**

At the time of this newsletter printing, all in-person meetings aside from **Southminster Worship** and **IPCN Worship** are cancelled due to Covid numbers.

Other meetings have been left on the calendar for reference only, and will resume when Covid positivity rates go down again.

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

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

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

Return Service Requested

**February 2022**

**Sunday February 13th**

**Help us tackle hunger  
in our community!**

**See details inside.**



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.