



Keyhole Press

Southminster Presbyterian

February 2026

From the Pastor

Dear Southminster

Looking Ahead with Trust

As I prepare to step into retirement, I do so with confidence in what lies ahead for this congregation. This is not simply a closing chapter; it is a moment of crossing into something new. God is not finished with this church. In many ways, God is already going ahead of you.

In the months to come, you will call a new minister and begin a new season of shared life and ministry. That season will ask something of all of you—openness, patience, flexibility, and trust. There will be moments of excitement and moments of uncertainty. Both are part of faithful growth.

Scripture reminds us that “the Lord goes before you” (Deuteronomy 31:8). You do not step into this future alone, and you do not need to have everything figured out before you begin. God’s work often unfolds while we are still learning how to walk together.

I encourage you to approach this time with curiosity rather than fear. Care for one another well. Be generous in listening, especially when change feels uncomfortable. A new minister will bring gifts that will take time to discover—gifts that will emerge through relationship, worship, and shared ministry.

The strength of this congregation has never rested in one person. It lives in your faith, your service, and your commitment to being the church together. You already have what you need for this next chapter.

Go forward with courage.

Go forward with grace.

And trust that God, who has been faithful in the past, is already at work in what is to come.

Rev. Jock O’Connell

Manchester Concert Series Welcomes The TAM Trio

On Saturday, February 7th the Manchester Concert Series will welcome the TAM Trio, who will present a concert at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Admission is \$10.00 per person, plus a non-perishable food item for the Southminster Food Closet. This event is open to the public. Please invite your family and friends.

Our name, The TAM Trio, comes from the first letters of our last names and reflects our vision of performing Thrilling Artful Melodies. We are an eclectic piano trio of professional musicians based in Richmond, Virginia who enjoy performing everything from Baroque to folk, jazz and modern pop. We are: Kate Tibbetts, cello. Christine Anderson, violin. Sharon Miller, piano.

Mitten Tree Report

In early December we invited members of the congregation to bring hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for kids and teens to worship to decorate our Mitten Tree. The Mitten Tree donations were then distributed to local schools prior to winter break to outfit children in need of cold-weather gear.

We delivered eleven bags of warmth to: Meadowbrook High School, Falling Creek Middle School, Manchester Middle School, Midlothian Middle School, Robious Elementary School, Chalkley Elementary School, Beulah Elementary School, Falling Creek Elementary School, Bensley Elementary School, Hopkins Elementary School, and Goochland Elementary School.

A special thank-you to our Mitten Tree Elves who delivered the gear to the schools: Ginny Ball, Jock O'Connell, Karen Stafford, Mary MacKenzie Swenck, Rich Kowalski, and Judy Lee.

And a special thank you to Girl Scout Troop 603 who collected for the Mitten Tree as a service project.

Worship & Education

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 18th with our traditional Ash Wednesday prayer service at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is a traditional day of prayer and reflection that marks the beginning of Lent, the six weeks of holy preparation for Easter.

Bible Fun Week – Save The Date

Bible Fun Week will be held July 27 – 31, 2026 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. This year we will be offering another fun-filled week of Bible stories, song and games for children ages 2 through 5th grade. Older children and teens are encouraged to sign up to help us lead Bible Fun Week. We are also recruiting volunteers to make this year's program spectacular!

Stay tuned for how to register and more information about the program in the upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Laura Pearson by phone: 804-387-3913 or email:

laurapearson53@gmail.com .

2026 Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2026 following worship. After the meeting, we hope you will join us for a pot luck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Southminster will provide the main course. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you.

Stewardship Update

We are pleased to report to the congregation, that so far, 2026 commitments to Southminster total: \$268,520.00. Thank you to all of those who pledged this year. If you haven't yet made your commitment, you still can. Pledge Cards can be found at the back of the church on the small round table. You can then place your card in the collection plate or mail it to the church office.

Frank Grier and Matt Briggs, Moderators

2026 Sessional Committee Moderators

Worship and Education - Andrew Swenck and Guy Dixon

Nurture - Freya Harper and Judy Lee

Witness - Rick Abbott and Shelly Murray

Stewardship and Administration - Frank Grier and Matt Briggs

Witness & Outreach

Souper Bowl of Caring

I'm here to give a little pep talk and request to all of you on the upcoming, "Souper Bowl of Caring" on February 8th, 2026. This collection, taken up at our 11:00 AM worship service, helps support our Southminster Food Closet and the Liberation Veterans Services meals.

Our donations are distributed equally between these two groups and is very well appreciated. Souper Bowl contributions provide food for both groups, which helps our community. So please when you leave on Souper Bowl Sunday drop your donations in the pot of your favorite team you support. Every little bit helps.

Rick Abbott and Shelley Murray

RISC Team Meeting

Southminster's RISC team members will meet right after worship on Sunday, February 8th in the Fellowship Hall. This is the meeting when we bring our lists of the 9 people we plan to invite to attend the 2026 Nehemiah Action, which is Tuesday, March 24th. We meet in order to share food and fellowship and to make sure each of us is not inviting the same 9 people.

Even if you are not a RISC team member, you are welcome to join us and find out what this is all about. RISC has a new focus area this year: mental health services, an issue I'm sure we can all support. We hope to see you there. A light lunch will be served. If you have questions, please contact Shelley Murray.

Food Closet 2025 Report

For the calendar year 2025, the Food Closet served 291 families, for a total of 890 people. We did experience an increase in the number of people we assist, due to the loss of funding to some programs that helped a lot of people and a number of people losing their full-time jobs. But this congregation, along with the assistance of our co-sponsor church families, rose to the occasion and provided food to these extra families. Thanks to all of you who have provided food and financial donations to keep this program going for all these years. And a special “thank you” to all the volunteers from our congregation and our sister churches, who work so hard to keep this program going. We could not do this without all of you. God bless you all.

Rich Kowalski

Session Highlights

- Approved December 2025 Financial Report
- Approved following Supply Ministers
 - February 8, 2026 - Rev. Carson Rhyne - Susan Edwards Lay Leader
 - March 10, 2026 - Barbara Flynt - Jennifer Weddle, Lay Leader
 - April 12, 2026 - Rev. Katherine Todd - Guy Dixon, Lay Leader
- Elected Judy Lee and Matt Briggs as elder commissioners to the February 21, 2026, POJ meeting. Elected Rick Abbott and Freya Harper as elder commissioners to the June 2026 POJ meeting, and Guy Dixon and Andrew Swenck as elder commissioner to the October POJ meeting.
- Approved call for Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting for Sunday, February 22, 2026, immediately following morning worship service. There will also be a luncheon following the meeting in the Fellowship Hall. The Church will provide the chicken, and members are asked to bring side dishes.
- The SPC Corporation elected the following officers for 2026: Frank Grier, President; Matt Briggs, Treasurer; and Susan Edwards, Secretary.
- Approved the 2025 Statistical Report for the PCUSA.
- Approved Bible Fun Week for July 24-31, 2026.
- Approved the Girl Scouts to use the old Boy Scouts shed as well as content of shed.
- Approved the following worship services:
 - February 18 - Ash Wednesday Service - 6 p.m.
 - March 29 - Palm Sunday Service - 11 a.m.
 - April 2 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service – 6:30 PM
 - April 5 - Easter Sunday Service - 10 a.m.; Annual Easter Hunt at 11 a.m.

Girl Scout Cookie Season

Have you been craving Thin Mints lately? You're in luck! Girl Scout Cookie Season is upon us and Troop 603 is already taking orders. Contact troop leader Allavine Curtis to place your order at alb2521@hotmail.com or call/text at 804-402-1796.

Cookies will start coming in on February 13th and the troop can deliver on Sundays before worship beginning on Sunday, February 15th. In addition, the scouts will have a cookie booth in the narthex on Girl Scout Sunday, March 15th. Thank you for supporting Troop 603.

Mission Trip

The Disaster Relief Mission Team will travel to Asheville, North Carolina, February 8th – 14th to continue Hurricane Helene clean-up.

Directory Updates

Barbara Jordanger
1550 Westbrook Court
Apartment 6419
Richmond, VA 23227
804-200-1240

Katie Daniel
7919 Hampton Arbor Circle
Chesterfield, VA 23832

We Pray For:

Ramona Clopton, Jean Derrenbacker,, Patsy Hevener, Winki Lampe, Jim & Jane Lewis, Shirley Martin, Donna Medicus, Nancy Peters, Lynda & Charles Reed, Billy Smith, Susan Teller, Art & Ginny Williams, Lora Anderson

For the full list of Joys & Concerns, please see the pastor's weekly email.

Contact pastor@southpreschurch.org if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the kind of donation of hats, gloves, and scarves for the children of Byrd Elementary! Your kindness will directly warm their hearts.

Thank you!
Nurse Britton & Byrd Elementary

February Birthdays

- 1 Gina Rhodes
- 2 Carolyn Surber
- 4 Jim Davis
- 5 Meleana Grogan
- 7 Barbara Reid
- 9 Rodney Shade
- 10 Art Williams, Michael Willis
- 11 Lou Ann Daniel
- 12 Austin Smith, Jones Hollingsworth,
Ann Wilkins
- 20 Kerry Knight
- 21 Wanda Carneal, Grady Osborne
- 22 Melinda Bookman
- 23 Dan Pharr, Barbara Jordanger
- 24 Anna Pinchbeck
- 25 Joseph Swenck
- 28 Susan Teller

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

Presbyterian Women

Anna Circle

February 2nd at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg's Residence

Martha Circle

February 11th at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Ruth Circle

February 3rd at 2:00 PM
Conference Room

February Schedules

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

Communion

- 1 Team 4
- Elder Servers: Matt Briggs, Frank Grier,
Andrew Swenck

Church Closer for February

David Huff

Ushers

- 1 Judy Lee, Frank Grier
- 8 Judy Lee, Frank Grier, Rich Kowalski, Guy Dixon
- 15 Rick & Pat Abbott, Matt Briggs, Jerry Davis
- 22 Rick & Pat Abbott, Matt Briggs, Jerry Davis

Food Closet

- 3 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 5 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 10 Frank Grier, Pat Ervin
- 12 Cherienne McCall, Freya Harper
- 17 Carol Todd, Jane Williams
- 19 Ann Potts, Karen Stafford
- 24 Mary Stahl, Pat Ervin
- 26 David Stahl, Shelley Murray

Southminster Presbyterian Church

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 3 PM: IPCN	2 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7:30 PM: IPCN	3 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 10 AM: Martha Circle	5 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	6 4:30 PM: Manchester Concert Rehearsal 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 4 PM: Manchester Concert 7:30 PM: IPCN
8 Souper Bowl 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aids 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 12 PM RISC Team Mtg. 3 PM: IPCN	9 12 PM: Chair Yoga 7:30 PM: IPCN	10 Food Closet 2 PM: Cookie Packing 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 10 AM: Martha Circle	12 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	13 8 AM: Girl Scout Cookie Sorting 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 Valentine's Day 8 AM: Girl Scout Cookie Sorting 7:30 PM: IPCN
15 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 12 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	16 12 PM: Chair Yoga 7:30 PM: IPCN	17 Food Closet 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 Ash Wednesday Service 6 PM: Ash Wednesday Service	19 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	20 6:30 PM: Bexley Annual Meeting 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 7:30 PM: IPCN
22 Annual Mtg. 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 12 PM: Annual Meeting & Pot Luck 3 PM: IPCN	23 12 PM: Chair Yoga 7:30 PM: IPCN	24 Food Closet 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 10 AM: Balladeers	26 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	27 5 PM: IPCN Event (FH) 7:30 PM: IPCN	28 7:30 PM: IPCN
		Notes				
Sunday, February 8th: Carson Rhyme will preach						

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

February 2026



Ash Wednesday

Service on
February 18th at 6:00 PM
in the Sanctuary

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.