



Keyhole Press

Southminster Presbyterian

January 2022

From the Pastor

"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.'" -Matthew 25:40

Jesus calls us to serve the "least of these" even when it requires personal sacrifices on our part. To follow Jesus means to imitate the servant leadership he showed in his life, prioritizing the very young, the sick, the poor, and the elderly. And it should come as no surprise to us that these groups Jesus lifts up are the very same groups that have needed the most protection during this Covid-19 pandemic. We are living through a critical time of testing our commitment to biblical values in very practical ways.

As winter sets in we are already seeing an increase in the number of local cases. As I write on December 20th we are at 10.3% positive tests in Chesterfield, just above our safety threshold. So the Session has asked me to take this moment to urge our church family to take precautions to protect yourselves and to live out your faith in being mindful of the "least of these".

These are the measures Southminster will take as a congregation to offer protection and safety to all:

- Thanks to the strong vaccination rate among our members, the Session has extended our in-person worship threshold to 14% positivity. Please check the weekly email for updates on the current positivity rates. If you are not currently on the email list you can request to be added by emailing pastor@southpreschurch.org.
- While we are above 10% church activity will be limited to worship only. Worship will continue to be in-person and online, but the building will be closed to all other groups including Sunday School, Yoga, PW, and Scouts.
- The Session is strongly encouraging those who wish to worship in-person to receive your booster shot before attending. Current research shows there is no better protection against the omicron variant than having your booster shot.
- We will continue to require masks for all people while inside the church building. This small sacrifice allows us to continue to worship together in person while still protecting those highest risk among us like unvaccinated children, elderly, pregnant women, and the immunocompromised.
- We will continue to offer live streaming for all worship services, allowing everyone the ability to be a vital part of our faith community and encouraging people to participate from home if they are experiencing symptoms.

If you have any questions or concerns, I hope you will talk with me or one of our elders about how we can better serve one another.

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin

Ordination & Installation of New Elders

Save the date for January 30th for our Ordination and Installation of our new class of Elders: Clay Spillman, Jennifer Weddle and Robin Lapsley, who will be installed, and Mary Stahl, who will be ordained and installed.

We are hoping to continue a tradition we started last year and invite all current or past elders to contribute a handprint to a special stole that will be presented to each of our incoming elders at their installation. The materials to contribute a handprint will be stationed by the back door starting on January . Please trace your hand on one of the pieces of felt provided and sign your name so we know whose hand it is. You are also encouraged to write a short blessing or message of encouragement to our incoming elders. These handprints will be made into stoles representing the laying on of hands. Thank you for contributing to this meaningful project!

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30th following worship at Noon. Our area is experiencing an increase in covid cases as winter sets in, so stay tuned for announcements in January as to whether we will be able to share our traditional meal together.

This meeting is an important opportunity to be informed about the church budget and program plans for the upcoming year and to hear about opportunities to be more involved. We will also vote to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call. We will make the meeting available virtually via zoom by using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87879652537?pwd=YkZrSGtWajh0Y3gvMDgyRTVNLjFGQT09>

Church In The World

Food Closet Increases

The Southminster Food Closet serves clients twice a week every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We receive financial and in-kind donations from Southminster members as well as several other local churches and neighboring organizations. This ministry is core to who we are and one of the pillars of our ministry that continued even through the toughest days of the pandemic, because we knew the need in our community was too great to ignore! This fall we did an evaluation of what we offer our food closet clients and determined that there was a need to increase the amount of the grocery gift cards we offer. Each client receives dry and canned goods as well as a gift card to help cover fresh produce, meat, dairy, and bread. It had been more than a decade since we had increased the amount of those gift cards, and with the rising prices we have all seen at the grocery store we knew it was long overdue!

In November the session unanimously voted in increase the gift cards to \$20 for a household of 1-2 people, \$30 for a household of 3-4, and \$40 for a household of 5 or more. We have a reserve food fund that will help cover this increase and we also invite you to consider increasing your giving to help us ensure that our neighbors can put food on their table. Thank you!

Finance

2022 Finance Team Update

After a challenging 2021 we are looking forward to an improving 2022 for Finance. Elder David Huff will continue to head the Finance Committee for 2022 and serve as Assistant Treasurer. Elder Mark Endries will continue as Treasurer. Rich Kowalski will continue as Head Teller with Frank Grier and Terry Liendecker assisting. We also have Check Signers, an Investment Committee, and an Audit Team.

In summary, we have an abundance of experienced and trusted folks ready and willing to serve! If you have financial gifts and skills and would like to join the Finance Team we would love to add more names to that list! Opportunities include, joining the Tellers who count the offering every Monday morning, serving on the Annual Audit team, joining the Investment Committee, or simply serving on the general Finance Team. Please contact David Huff, 804-338-1819 if you are interested in serving.

Leadership & Planning

Session Retreat

On Saturday January 15th our Session, including our incoming class of elders, will gather for their annual retreat at the Presbytery of the James Office from 9-12. This is an important time for building relationships and stepping back from the month to month business in order to consider the larger vision of our church, set goals, and increase our knowledge. This year we will focus on strategies to strengthen our committees and increase our volunteer engagement. I encourage you to be in prayer for your leadership as the engage in this important time together.

Facilities

Inclement Weather Policy

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. You may also call the church office where the voicemail message will be updated with appropriate information.

Presbyterian Women

Please see calendar disclaimer

Ruth Circle

January 4th at 2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Anna Circle

January 4th at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg's residence

Martha Circle

January 5th at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Esther Circle

No meeting planned for January

Special Announcements

Richmond Music Teachers Association Workshop

On Saturday January 15th, The Richmond Music Teachers Association (a chapter of the Music Teachers National Association) will present a workshop for local teachers at Southminster Presbyterian Church 11:00am. The workshop is open to the public and will be of special interest to anyone who is a musician or a music teacher!

Presenter Susanna Klein is a performer, educator, and arts entrepreneur. She is assistant professor of violin and coordinator of strings at Virginia Commonwealth University, former violinist in the Richmond Symphony, and a current member of Trio 826 (in Iowa) and the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble (in Richmond). A brief description of the workshop: "Fun is Good Business for all! Gamifying is good for us as teachers as it makes our work more enjoyable, it's great for students as it helps engagement and learning, and it's good for business because it helps retain current students and attract new ones."



If you are interested in the workshop, contact Kimberly Ryan at keliseryan@gmail.com

Southminster Ringers Update

The Southminster Ringers Bell Choir will take a break from ringing in January, and will return to our Wednesday evening rehearsal schedule starting at 6:00 PM on February 16, 2022. We are still open to accepting new members, so please email Kimberly Ryan at keliseryan@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us!

Session Highlights

- Motion was approved to move forward in the process of hiring a candidate for the Covenant Pastor Position.
- The Annual Congregational meeting will take place on January 30, 2022.
- Updated COVID procedures were approved.
- A deficit church budget for 2022 was tentatively approved with plans for a special joint meeting of session and finance to take place in the new year
- The 2022 Annual Finance resolutions were approved, this includes approval of Church Treasurer, Asst Treasurer, check signers, tellers, and maintenance of a contingency fund.

By now, the Southminster staff and many members of the congregation have grown very familiar with fraudulent emails from scammers. We want all of our members to be aware of the scam and how it works.

Scammers get the name of a church's pastor (or even church members) and use that to create a legitimate-looking email address with the pastor's name attached. Then they begin emailing church staff and members. Sometimes they start off conversationally: "How are you? I need assistance. Please email me when you get this." Other times they jump straight to: "I need you to purchase some gift cards."

The ultimate aim is to get people to purchase gift cards and email the scammer the gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let the scammer immediately get the money you loaded onto the card. Once they have the numbers, the money is gone and untraceable. The upside of this scam is that it does not mean that the church has been hacked. Our security is not compromised and no one's private data is at risk. People just need to be vigilant about responding to emails. Remember:

1. Pay attention to the email address. Rev. Deyerle's legitimate email address is pastor@southpreschurch.org. Anything else is fraudulent. (Examples of false email addresses we've seen include revcaitlind@gmail.com and revcaitlinderle@gmail.com.) Scam emails have also come from fake email addresses of other church members
2. If you are ever in doubt about whether or not a request is legitimate, just call the church office. We will be happy to verify the information for you. If the suspicious email appears to come from a member, it's best to call them and double check.
3. **No member of the Southminster staff will ever solicit you to purchase gift cards.**

The best response to these emails is no response. We have already reported the problem to the appropriate authorities. If you suspect that you have been the victim of a scam you should contact the local police and speak to the fraud division.

Directory Updates

Matt Briggs
Preferred Email:
matt.briggs84@gmail.com

Bobbi Briggs
909 Perry Street
Apt. 312
Richmond, VA 23224
bobbinicole804@gmail.com

Southminster Notes

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for thinking of us with the wonderful food from the Careful Chefs and the gift bag of goodies. I miss you all so much and we are blessed to have you as our friends. God bless you all and Merry Christmas.

Love,
Donna Medicus

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, Eileen Robison
- 28 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 29 Patsy Hevener
- 30 Katie Daniel, James Deyerle
- 31 Star Lopez

January Anniversaries

- 2 Guy & Dorothy Dixon (31)
- 14 Bill & Janet Crawford (33)
- 15 Harry & Becky Rowan (56)

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

January Schedules

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

Communion Team

January 2: Team 3 (Unit)

Elder Greeters

- 2 TBD
- 9 TBD
- 16 TBD
- 23 TBD
- 30 TBD

Ushers

- 2 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,
Jerry & Cheriene McCall
- 9 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,
Jerry & Cheriene McCall
- 16 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Pat & Rick Abbott
- 23 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Pat & Rick Abbott
- 30 Jan Belote, Moses Adiele, Margaret & Jim Hall

Visitation Team

- 9 Becky & Harry Rowan
- 16 Susan Pharr
- 30 Karen Stafford

Food Closet

- 4 Shelley Murray, Frank Grier
- 6 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 11 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 13 Cheriene McCall, Jane Tarter
- 18 Ann Potts, Margaret Hall
- 20 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 25 Rose Spradin, Mary Stahl
- 27 Jane Williams, Melba Jolly

Southminster Presbyterian Church

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day 7:30 PM: IPCN
2 Communion 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	3 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 Food Closet 2 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	5 10 AM: Martha Circle 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	6 Food Closet 6 PM: Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	7 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 7:30 PM: IPCN
9 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	10 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	12 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	13 Food Closet	14 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 9 AM: Session Retreat 9:30 AM: RMTA Workshop 7:30 PM: IPCN
16 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	17 ML King Day 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	19 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	20 Food Closet 10 AM: Triad	21 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 7:30 PM: IPCN
23 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	24 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	27 Food Closet	28 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 7:30 PM: IPCN
30 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM Annual Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	31 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	Please Read: As of the December 2020 Session meeting, 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

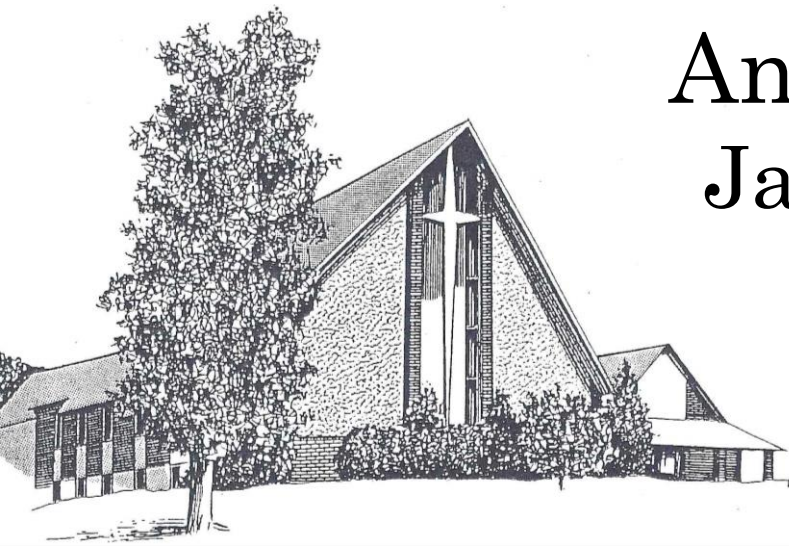
Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

January 2022



Join us for our
Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022
12:00 PM

Zoom video and
call-in details inside

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.