



From the Pastor

Friends,

Almost three years ago, leading up to the 50th Anniversary year of our congregation, you all approved a new Purpose for Being Statement for our church: **Southminster Presbyterian Church's Purpose for Being is to provide an exciting and welcoming spiritual experience that energizes all to share God's love and care for others.** This statement has been a guide to our leadership during this time of crisis. Although we have not been able to be together in-body, we have certainly been together in spirit. We have come together for spiritual experiences online. We have continued to seek first to energize ourselves for mission and care. We have seen members of all ages and abilities step up in creative and beautiful ways, offering their gifts in worship, sewing masks for one another, donating to our food closet, praying for one another, and continuing to financially support our ministry.

As the world around us continues to shift, our foundational purpose remains steady. **After prayerful discernment about the physical and spiritual safety of our community the session voted to continue online worship for several more weeks with the intention to meet in-person on July 12th as conditions allow.** We have written a plan called Southminster: Moving Forward Together that outlines all of the safety guidelines and procedures we will follow that will continue to evolve as recommendations become clearer. The details of this first phase on re-opening can be found on the last page of the newsletter. When we are able to gather in person we plan to hold two services, one outdoor at 9 am and one indoor at 11 am that will also be live-streamed. All who participate in these in-person gatherings will be expected to love their neighbor by wearing a mask and to follow clearly marked seating guidelines. You will hear more about our plans for worship in the coming weeks, but I want to take the time to root these decisions in our congregation's spiritual purpose.

- 1) **We will be excited.** God has given us great enthusiasm to try out new ways of being church online and that will continue to be the best way to participate for many of us! We will continue to live-stream our worship, and all meetings and group gatherings will still be held online. But those limitations will not stop our creativity! **We are planning to host a Zoom Ice Cream Social, and Online Hymn-Sing, and we are even creating an interactive at-home Bible Fun Week.** You can find details about all of these events in this newsletter. We want this to be more than a time of waiting and isolation. Instead we will embrace this as moment to be the church in unique and creative ways.
- 2) **We will be welcoming.** As we cautiously plan a return to in-person worship, the most welcoming thing we can do right now is to protect one another. We recognize that at least 30% of our members are considered at-risk and we all need to adapt to make everyone as safe as possible. **Everyone will be expected to love their neighbor by wearing a mask at all times and keeping socially distant.** That means being willing to sit in a new pew, smiling and waving instead of offering a hug or handshake, and

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not congregating after worship as you normally would. If you are showing ANY signs of illness you should absolutely stay at home. You may feel comfortable following different guidelines in your personal life, but at church we will follow Christ's command to show care for the least among us by following the most conservative guidelines.

- 3) **We will invest in spiritual experiences.** Our worship will continue to change and evolve over the coming months as health guidelines change. Nevertheless, we will seek regular times of spiritual renewal, whether virtual or in-person, that keep us connected with God. In-person worship will not be the same as before. **For example, we will not be able to sing together because of the increase risk of transmitting particles that singing produces, but we will enjoy the beautiful music of our faith in other ways.** We will not be able to pass offering plates or share communion, but we know God's spirit is calling us to a continued willingness to be flexible as we worship and pray together.
- 4) **We will be energized for love and care.** From the first days of this crisis we have made caring for one another and our neighbors a top priority. We will continue to connect with our most vulnerable members. Even as we cannot visit in person, we will continue to send cards, make calls, and pray together. **We will continue to find safe ways to serve our neighbors through our mission ministries, especially our food closet, because now more than ever God is calling us to be the hands and feet of Christ.**

Peace, *Caitlin Depple*

Congregational Life

Summer Compassion Camp

When: August 24-28

Price: FREE!

Where: More info to come!



This summer, with an eye toward keeping the children in our community safe and healthy, Southminster will be offering a unified Compassion Camp for children 2 - 10 years old. Though we are still in the planning stages, we are very excited about this new program! Compassion Camp will be held in place of Camp Hanover Day Camp and Toddler Bible Fun Week.

Compassion Camp will be held either totally online, or some blend of online and in-person activities. We will continue to monitor the progress of COVID-19 and make a decision closer to August. Compassion Camp is completely **free** of charge, but we need your help to know how many children will participate in this program this summer! Please visit the church website and use this form to **register** your child for Compassion Camp: <https://www.southpreschurch.org/compassion-camp.html>.

We were all saddened to hear that Camp Hanover would be suspending their summer programs this year, but we want to follow their good example and do our part to keep our children and our whole community safe and healthy. We are grateful for the opportunity that Compassion Camp gives us to still provide some summer programming for our children, whether virtually or in-person, and excited for the ways it will help our children continue to grow in faith!

Southminster Scholarship

The youth and young adults in our congregation have been blessed by the generosity of former and current members who contribute to our Scholarship Fund, helping our young members with college expenses. All eligible Southminster youth are encouraged to apply for the Southminster Scholarship.

Applicants must be confirmed members of Southminster and attend at least two worship services or church-sponsored events each year. Due to the current suspension of worship services, applications and guidelines were mailed to eligible students in April. If you think you are eligible and did not receive this mailing, please contact the church office. The church office must receive your application by **June 15th** for consideration.

Leadership & Planning

Congratulations Caitlyn

In all of the strangeness of this spring we missed the opportunity to say congratulations to our Intern Caitlyn Hathaway for completing her internship with us! Caitlyn brought so much to our congregation this past year and we are excited that although her official internship is complete she is staying on as a part of the Southminster family. Caitlyn will continue on as our Director of Faith Formation, continuing her role with our children and families and adding in some additional responsibilities in the areas of worship and pastoral care. This summer Caitlyn will complete her second required internship, training as a hospital chaplain at VCU. That means that in order to keep all of our church members safe we will only see Caitlyn online via video this summer! In the fall we will look forward to seeing Caitlyn regularly in person again as she begins her third and final year as a student at Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary and rejoins us in person for regular worship and fellowship. Congratulations Caitlyn! We are all praying for you as you dive into this final year of preparation for the ministry.

Special Announcements

Sunday Worship

Starting on May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, we will be upgrading our live-streaming worship! We will be moving to a new platform to allow for a smoother experience- I hope you notice a positive difference, and don't worry...you don't have to learn anything new. All you need to do is go to our church website (www.southpreschurch.org/online-worship.html) on Sunday mornings at 11 AM to watch right from there LIVE. You can also continue to watch LIVE on Facebook where you can also comment and see who else is watching with you-- this is my favorite part!

The one thing it will change is our folks who have been listening on their phones will now have a new number each week. Pastor Caitlin will be reaching out to the handful of folks who have been using the call in number to arrange to email them the new number each Sunday morning at 10:30. I've been surprised that more of you aren't using the phone to join us for worship! If you would like to try out the phone option all you need to do is let Pastor Caitlin know you are interested and she will add you to the list! We want everyone to be able to join us for worship- so if you need some coaching on how the website or phone-in option works Pastor Caitlin is happy to work with you one-on-one or partner you with another church member to help you along!

A Special Invitation

Several months ago the session began a conversation with one of our neighboring churches, New Covenant Presbyterian Church off of Iron Bridge Rd. New Covenant is a small and friendly church that is unfortunately planning to close sometime in the next year. Our session has officially issued an invitation for their members to join Southminster and be adopted as a group into our church family whenever the time comes for their congregation to close their doors. The session would like to invite all of you to be in prayer for the saints at New Covenant as they work with the Presbytery of the James to make this transition. As with many things, a clear timeline is uncertain right now, but we know that Southminster will be up to the task of welcoming and embracing these new brothers and sisters!

Zoom Ice Cream Social

All are invited to join us for a time of fellowship on Sunday June 14th at 3pm for our Zoom Ice Cream Social! BYO ice cream and join us online to say hello, play some silly games, and enjoy some time with your church family. If you need some technology coaching please reach out to Pastor Caitlin ahead of time. This event should be to accessible to everyone, whether you are a Zoom pro or all you have is a landline...you CAN join us for this event!

Sunday, June 14, at 3:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81705456308?pwd=NGdDYkduS0RmNzIMTDJkTEhVVVpodz09>

Call In Number: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 817 0545 6308

Password: 979350

Outdoor Chapel Update

Work is beginning on the Outdoor Chapel to get it ready for another fun season of outdoor worship. Several dead trees will be taken down and fallen benches repaired. The Session is working on the reopening schedule for both indoor and outdoor services and the necessary precautions to be taken due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Southminster Yard Sale News

The Southminster Yard Sale which had been scheduled for June has been cancelled. We are tentatively considering rescheduling for middle to late August dependent on the situation at that time. Of course, there are more unknowns than knowns at this time but continue to save your gently used stuff and we will continue to keep you up to date.

Session Highlights

- Motion passed to set tentative reopening of in person church services for Sunday July 12th.
- Due to the cancellation of all summer activities at Camp Hanover, motions were passed to donate our deposit for day camp to them, and to adopt the Compassion Camp curriculum to be used at Southminster for our own kids camp this summer.
- A welcome letter was approved to invite New Covenant Presbyterian Church members to join us for worship services; and to pray for their congregation as they go through the transition of closing their church facility

Father's Day Craft

What you need:

- One sheet white paper
- One sheet colored paper
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Popsicle stick (optional)

*This craft is adapted from

<https://homeschoolpreschool.net/fathers-day-craft/>

The website has more pictures if you'd like visual instructions!



Instructions:

1. Cut out the popsicle template.
2. Trace the popsicle template onto your colored paper.
3. Glue colored popsicle onto white paper.
4. Glue on a popsicle stick at the bottom (or draw one if you don't have a popsicle stick at home).
5. Put a face on the popsicle—be creative here! Add googly eyes if you have them, or just use a crayon or marker to draw one on.
6. Write at the top of the white paper, "Dad, you're the coolest!"
7. Give to Dad on Father's Day!



- **Phase 1- Safer-at-Home- March 15th to July 11th**
 - Online Worship Only
 - Staff will lead worship from home or with 10 people or less, wearing masks and 6ft apart.
 - The church building will be closed except to essential staff and volunteers.
 - Masks should be worn at all times in the building.
 - All outside groups will stop activities.
 - IPCN to record worship from their sanctuary following guidelines.
 - No in-person meetings or events
 - Staff will provide support for online meetings and other small groups.
 - All pastoral care will be done via phone, mail, or electronic messaging.
 - Pastor's Aides will continue to make monthly calls
- **Phase 2- Socially Distanced Worship- Planned for July 12th**
 - Highly Encourage At-Risk Individuals to Continue to Stay-at-Home
 - Worship- 9 am Outdoor Chapel, 11 AM Sanctuary and Live-Stream
 - Social Distancing
 - Family groups must be seated 6 ft apart following pew markings
 - Masks strongly encouraged and provided
 - Limiting shared-touch surfaces
 - Hand Sanitizer stationed at entrances
 - No Sign-in Sheets, No Bulletins, or Passed Offering plates
 - Prayer Station will be removed
 - Limiting high-risk practices
 - No Live Singing
 - No Communion
 - Passing the Peace will be done without physical contact
 - Safety for Children
 - Children will remain in their seats for Children's Time
 - Children's Worship Space will be closed, Nursery will be closed
 - Children's Worship Bags will not be available, families are encouraged to bring toys and activities from home.
 - Other Measures
 - Signs on all entrances encouraging mask wearing and prohibiting those with symptoms.
 - Ushers will greet verbally, at a safe distance outside the front door.
 - No Coffee Station, No Water Fountain
 - All interior doors will be propped open at all times
 - All exterior doors will be propped open before and after worship.
 - Building will be cleaned each week with special attention to commonly touched surfaces.
 - Pastoral Care
 - No in-person pastoral visits except in the case of serious illness or death.
 - Primary means of pastoral care will be via phone, mail, or electronic communication.
 - Pastor's Aides will continue monthly calls
 - Church Building will remain closed except to essential staff and volunteers.
 - Masks should be worn at all times in the building.
 - All outside groups are asked to stop activities.
 - IPCN worship may resume according to State of Virginia Worship Guidelines
 - No in-person meetings or events
 - Staff will continue to provide support for online meetings and small groups.

Southminster Notes

Thanks for remembering me for the loss of my sister to the Covid-19 virus. She was a year and a half younger than I, and we were close as we grew up. We grew closer after retiring to this area, with weekly lunches and family gatherings. We appreciate our church family more as we lose family members. May the Lord bless you all.

Ginny Williams

June Birthdays

- 1 Jack Coryell, Terry Liendecker
- 5 Bonnie Kowalski, Brady Paterson,
Johnathan Shipley, Michaela Williams
- 6 Tod Bigley, Shannon Coryell,
Keith Lumsden
- 7 Steven Taggart
- 8 Maggie Lumsden Bass
- 11 Marit Smith
- 13 Tracey Williams
- 16 Casey Adiele, Laura Schiller Toro
- 17 Jake Lumsden
- 18 Bruce Jones, Rebekah Campbell
- 19 Dawn France, Harry Rowan
- 20 Jana Paterson
- 21 Barbara Flynt, Gary Smith
- 22 Pat Abbott, Barbara Wheeler
- 24 Taylor Pond
- 25 Jean Collier, Eddie Pearson
- 26 Luca Cruciata
- 28 Cindy Ferguson
- 29 Jennifer Weddle, Vickie Adiele

June Anniversaries

- 1 Richard & Wanda Carneal (24)
- 8 Art & Ginny Williams (66)
- 10 Ron & Helen Raetz (42)
- 11 Ken & Kathy Brammer (40)
- 13 Ron & Debbie Crenshaw (34)
- 16 Ron & Mary Ann Hepp (47)
- 18 Steven & Gina Taggart (9)
- 19 Gene & Sue Rhodes (44)
- 20 Frank & Joyce Grier (39)
- 23 Bruce & Christy Jones (41)
- 23 Charles & Lynda Reed (36)
- 23 Craig & Naomi Campbell (13)
- 24 Reggie & Ivy Stennett (42)
- 26 Jim & Jane Lewis (66)
- 30 Mark & Jana Paterson (19)

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

June Food Closet Schedule

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

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, Shirley Martin, Jane McGee, Earl & Donna Medicus, Adele Robertson, Billy Smith, Liz Snead, Dave Thomas, Howard Vann, Ryan Witcher.

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

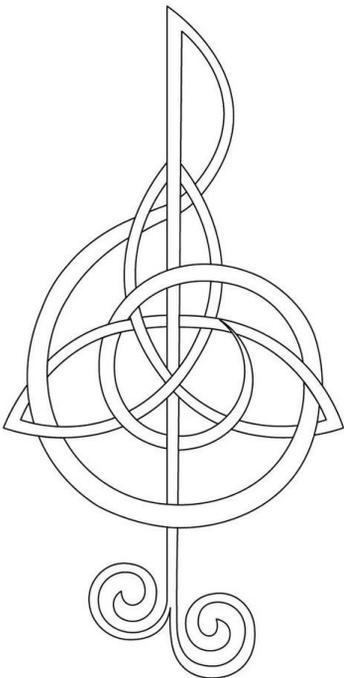
www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

June 2020

Zoom Hymn Sing
Sunday, June 28th at 3:00 PM



Join by Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83555179889?pwd=TDVUdDR2VnM4d3phejVaeXVvZlZlZz09>

Join by Phone:

+1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 835 5517 9889

Password: 962578

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Send an email to office@southpreschurch.org with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.