



Keyhole Press

Southminster Presbyterian

June/July 2023

From the Pastor

Dear Southminster

Last year this time Jennifer was scurrying around like a rabbit in a carrot patch to get the contract approved by the POJ for your new Interim Minister. It is nearly a year later. I am old news. Hopefully not fake news!

God willing, I will be with you for at least another year for which I am very thankful. Together we have achieved much and we pray more will be achieved. Close to the top of the prayer list is that God will provide someone to fill the staff vacancy we currently have.

Be assured, we want the congregation to be cared for to its fullest. We all are in agreement that we need someone to assist me or Southminster's next called minister to provide the pastoral care each one of you need. The Session was given the task to spearhead this search. They collaborated with the POJ and our Seminary, compiled a job description and advertised the position locally at the Seminary and on the POJ website. After nearly three months, we have had not a single inquiry or any interest shown in the position. The Session will now consider to expand the search for a candidate nationwide through the PCUSA network. This step would come at higher financial expense for the congregation.

I pray we as a Session pray God provide will provide someone because each one of you need the pastoral care – in its widest and fullest meaning – that you deserve. We want you to be cared for. I want to care for you. Be with you more than I am. It is painful not to be present as I want to and should be.

Pray with us for God to provide someone permanent

Be thankful for our Care Team who stepped up and in as caregivers in this interim period. Accept them as God-sent. That is what they are. God's caregivers for you in this moment in time. Pray for them.

Till God provides, we serve each other to the best of our abilities. We all are able to pray.

Blessings

Rev. Jock O'Connell

Outdoor Worship 2023

Outdoor worship will begin on Sunday, June 4th. This informal service is held at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings in the Chapel in the Woods. Wear your shorts and bring a camp chair. Come and enjoy the beauty of nature while you worship with your friends and family. To find the Chapel in the Woods, park at the back of the church and follow the signs along the path.

Rev. O'Connell on Leave in June

Rev. Jock O'Connell will be on leave from June 9th – June 28th. During this time, Southminster's pastoral care needs will be covered by Dr. Carol Londoner. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Joni in the church office during the week and a designated Session representative (to be announced) on the weekends. They will forward your information to Dr. Londoner.

Worship services will be held as usual at 9:00 AM in the outdoor chapel and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. We wish Rev. O'Connell and his family safe travels and a pleasant holiday.

Ice Cream Social

Join us for the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 9th (time will be announced closer to the date). Come for plenty of ice cream, toppings, nuts, bananas, and other goodies, and a chance enjoy fellowship with old and new friends. Bring the kids and grandkids; everyone is welcome.

Church in the World

Stewardship Awareness

This is part of the Session's effort to provide information on members' financial and volunteered time stewardship. The subject is our Food Closet and its relationship with the Chesterfield, Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry (CCHASM), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

CCHASM helps us by screening applicants before they come for assistance with food needs. They also add to the food that we purchase plus what our members contribute. Eighteen volunteers, 14 from our church, help in our Food Closet, with 3 -4 serving each of the weekly "open" days on a rotating basis. Shelley Murray is the dedicated leader, among others.

Approved budget amounts are \$5,000 for the Food Closet operation and \$3,050 is our contribution to CCHASM's missions. Besides vetting applicants for us, plus 25 other area church Food Closets, CCHASM assists those that need home food delivery, help with utility bills, referrals for housing and other emergency needs. They offer that assistance in Chesterfield and other nearby counties and cities. We are thankful that Southminster is able to leverage our social ministry through this effective partnership.

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. Applications and guidelines will be available at the church. Applications are due by June 15, 2023.

Leadership & Planning**Pastoral Care Professional Update**

As you know, God willing, I will be with you for at least another year. I thank God every day for the opportunity that I have to serve you. You are Diane's and my family. Not only family in Christ, but family as people we love and care for deeply. You opened yourselves to us. You accepted us – it is easy to do that to Diane! – and even me, as yours. We feel at home amongst you. It feels that we belong.

The two of us share your dreams for Southminster. We pray for Southminster. One prayer we share is that God will provide someone to fill the staff vacancy we have. We all want the congregation to be cared for to its fullest. We all are in agreement that we need someone to assist us to achieve that. The Session collaborated with the POJ and our Seminary, compiled a job description and advertised the position at the Seminary and on the POJ website. After nearly three months, we have had not a single inquiry or any interest shown. The Session will now consider to make the position known on the PCUSA website that covers the whole of the USA. This step would come at higher cost for the congregation.

Diane and I pray with you. We pray God will provide because each one of you need the pastoral care – in its widest and fullest meaning – that you deserve. We want you to be cared for. I want to care for you. Be with you more than I am. It is painful not to be present as I want to and should be. Pray for me.

Let us pray for God to provide someone. Let us pray and be thankful for our Care Team who stepped up and in as caregivers in this interim period. Accept them as God-sent. That is what they are. God's caregiver for you in this moment in time.

Presbyterian Women**Ruth Circle**

June 6th at 2:00 PM
Conference Room

Anna Circle

Sunday, June 25th

Lake Anna
Carpool will leave from
Southminster after worship

Martha Circle

Will meet again on September 6th

Bible Fun Week 2023

Save the Date: July 24th – July 28th

Calling all parents and grandparents, neighbors and friends! Before you know it, summer will be upon us, which means it is time to save the date for Bible Fun Week. Come learn and grow in faith with us as we explore Heroes in the Bible! Through stories, songs, crafts and activities we will once again bring God’s Word to life. Come join in the fun. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Bible Fun Week is open to children ages 2 through 5th graders. (We ask that children who are not potty trained be accompanied by a parent or caretaker.) We encourage older youth to come and participate as young leaders. Look for sign up forms and more information in the Narthax and on the church website. An organizational meeting for volunteers who wish to help will be held on Sunday, May 7th after church in the Parlor. For more information, please contact Laura Pearson.

Liberation Veteran Services Supply Drive

For the past six years our Southminster volunteers have regularly provided meals to residents of LVS, which hosts homeless veterans for up to one year. In honor of the July 4th holiday, we are holding a supply drive to show our gratitude to these veterans. You may bring your items to the church any time from Sunday, June 25 through Sunday, July 2 and leave them on the designated tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Please use the lists below, provided by LVS staff.

Consistent Needs

- 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- Bleach
- PineSol
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Non-Perishable Foods

Additional Items

- Egg Crate Mattress Toppers
- Twin Mattress Covers
- Pillows
- Towels
- Wash Clothes

Care Package Items

- (For Vets who are moving into their own homes)*
- Mops
- Buckets
- Brooms
- Dust Pans
- Gloves
- Dish Detergent

School Supply Drive

Southminster is partnering again this year with Chesterfield Mental Health Services to collect school supplies for students in our community. We will be collecting supplies throughout the summer. (Monetary donations to the School Supply Fund are also very welcome.) In mid-August we will gather to pack the supplies after Sunday worship, to be picked up by CMHS case workers. Stay tuned for more details about deadlines and packing. Please find a list of our needs below:

- Pencils
- Black Pens
- Red Pens
- Crayons (15 pack)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Erasers
- Ruled Paper (Wide)
- Single Subject Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebooks
- Colored Paper
- Elmers Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Backpacks for all ages

RISC Update

Thirty-six people represented Southminster at the RISC Nehemiah Action in March. There were almost 1200 area residents there of all denominations and backgrounds, perhaps a little like Pentecost, but broader. In contrast to last year, we had successes: more money than we asked for will go into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to provide housing for “the least of these,” our neighbors. More money than we asked for is going toward the repair and replacement of mobile homes that are in deplorable conditions. And RISC plans to meet with all mayoral candidates to determine their willingness to implement GVI, a program that has been proven to cut in half the number of gun deaths that have been rising every year in our area.

These successes are the result of so many of us showing up at City Council meetings, hard work and publicity, and an increase in the number of paid RISC staff. Thank you to all those who have attended these meetings and supported and prayed for these successes.

Southminster has 13 RISC team members. They pledge to attend meetings, bring at least three people to the Action, and invest financially. I know that many of you have been supporting and praying for our successes. Some of you are not able to commit to being an official team member, although we do hope to grow in the coming months. But one thing you CAN do, even if you are not a team member, is invest. No amount is too small. You can visit <https://www.riscrichmond.org/invest> to set up an automatic payment with your credit card, or you can send a check to RISC, PO Box 4931, Richmond, VA 23220. A monthly commitment, even just for \$5.00 can make a world of difference. Stamped and addressed envelopes are available on the RISC bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. This is one way we can all love our neighbors as ourselves. Contact Shelley Murray for additional information.

Southminster Notes

Dear Friends,

Having two major surgeries within twelve months is a humbling experiences, but not as much as being on the receiving end of the loving care of my Southminster Family. I can not say enough thank-you's for all the prayers, calls, cards, texts, food, visits, and treats. You all know how to make a person heal and get back to normal.

Thank you all again. I am so thankful to be healed and well and to be able to be back.

*Love to all,
Gail DeCosta*

Dear Southminster Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, cards, and texts. Harry and I appreciate them so much. We are starting P.T. and know that will help also. I felt the love and prayers going into surgery and since coming home. I am blessed.

*God bless you all,
Harry Rowan*

June Birthdays

- 1 Jack Coryell
- 5 Bonnie Kowalski, Brady Paterson,
Michaela Anthony
- 6 Tod Bigley, Shannon Coryell,
Jerry McCall
- 7 Byrd Harris
- 11 Marit Smith
- 13 Tracey Williams, Lora Anderson
- 16 Casey Adiele, Laura Schiller Toro
- 18 Bruce Jones
- 19 Dawn France, Harry Rowan, Alicia Willis
- 20 Jana Paterson
- 21 Barbara Flynt, Gary Smith
- 22 Pat Abbott, Moses Adiele
- 23 Evelyn Lopez
- 25 Eddie Pearson
- 26 Luca Cruciata
- 27 Bill Hevener
- 28 Cindy Ferguson
- 29 Jennifer Weddle, Vickie Adiele

June Anniversaries

- 1 Richard & Wanda Carneal (27)
- 4 David & Jennifer Williams (42)
- 8 Art & Ginny Williams (69)
- 10 Ron & Helen Raetz (45)
- 10 Ken & Kathy Brammer (43)
- 13 Ron & Debbie Crenshaw (37)
- 16 Ron & Mary Ann Hepp (50)
- 19 Gene & Sue Rhodes (47)
- 20 Frank & Joyce Grier (43)
- 23 Bruce & Christy Jones (44)
- 23 Charles & Lynda Reed (39)
- 24 Reggie & Ivy Stennett (45)
- 26 Jim & Jane Lewis (69)
- 30 Mark & Jana Paterson (22)

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

June Schedules

Communion Team

June 4: Team 1: 9 AM & 11 AM

Elder Greeters

- 4 Mary Stahl
- 11 Clay Spillman
- 18 Jerry Davis
- 25 Curtis Radt

Facility Stewards

- 4 TBD
- 11 TBD
- 18 TBD
- 25 TBD

Ushers

- 4 Dennis Stone, Chuck Greenberg,
Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 11 Dennis Stone, Chuck Greenberg,
Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 18 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 25 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier

Food Closet

- 1 Shelley Murray, Frank Grier
- 6 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 8 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 13 Jane Williams, Ann Potts
- 15 Melba Jolly, Ann Wilkins
- 20 Frank Grier, Cheriene McCall
- 22 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 27 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 29 Shelley Murray, Rose Spradin

July Birthdays

- 3 Bill Crawford
- 7 Debbie Crenshaw, Helen Raetz
- 8 Emily Pinchbeck
- 10 Asher Hollingsworth
- 13 Nancy Bare, Susan Edwards
- 14 Karen Stafford
- 15 Debbie Greenberg, Debbie Spillman
- 16 Nate Pearson, Dasher Roland, John Surber
- 18 Sue Rhodes, Susan Witcher,
Colleen Chinnis, Brody Pearson
- 20 Adam Taggart
- 21 Betsy Zehner
- 22 Seth Willis
- 23 Bob Warren
- 26 Luke Pearson, Lil Price
- 27 Jane Conrad, Ann Schaffer
- 31 Ryan Ball, Adrienne Proctor

July Anniversaries

- 12 Andy & Star Lopez (11)
- 14 Eddie & Audrey Pearson (14)
- 25 David & ChiChi Huff (59)
- 26 Tim & Jennifer Weddle (37)
- 26 Jack & Lou Ann Daniel (48)

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

July Schedules

Communion Teams

July 2: Team 2: 9 AM & 11 AM

Elder Greeters

- 2 Laura Pearson
- 9 Robin Lapsley
- 16 Frank Grier
- 23 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 30 Jennifer Weddle

Facility Stewards

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

Ushers

- 2 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 9 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 16 Kitty Bice, Rich & Bonnie Kowalski,
David & Lynne Reeser
- 23 Kitty Bice, Rich & Bonnie Kowalski,
David & Lynne Reeser
- 30 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,
Jerry & Cheriene McCall

Food Closet

- 6 Jane Williams, Melba Jolly
- 11 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 13 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 18 Frank Grier, Rose Spradin
- 20 Rick & Ann Schaffer, Cheriene McCall
- 25 Ann Potts, Jane Williams
- 27 Ann Wilkins, Mary Stahl

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

June / July 2023



Outdoor Worship
Begins Sunday, June 4th
9:00 AM in the
Chapel in the Woods

Traditional worship at
11:00 AM 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.

Southminster Presbyterian Church

June 2023

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

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July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 PM: IPCN
2 Communion 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	3 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	6 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	7 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 7:30 PM: IPCN
9 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN TBD: Ice Cream Social	10 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 Food Closet	12 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	13 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	14 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 7:30 PM: IPCN
16 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	17 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 Food Closet	19 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	20 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	21 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 7:30 PM: IPCN
23 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	24 Bible Fun Week 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 Food Closet Bible Fun Week	26 Bible Fun Week 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	27 Food Closet Bible Fun Week 10 AM: Balladeers	28 Bible Fun Week 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 7:30 PM: IPCN
30 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	31 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	Notes				