



### *From the Pastor*

Friends,

This month marks a difficult anniversary. It has been one year since the beginning of the pandemic and our prolonged season of social distancing. The reality of the one-year mark has been hitting me hard and I needed a reminder of our guiding light: **Southminster'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 purpose statement has been an incredible guidepost in this season, and I am so grateful for it! Although we have not been able to be together in-body very often we have continued to find creative ways to love one another that supersede distance.

Last spring, we created a plan outlining our safety guidelines for the multiple phases of opening. Yet, even more importantly, we took the time to describe our spiritual commitments to one another in this time. **First and foremost, we promised to continue to be excited about our faith, our mission, and our church family.** God has given us great enthusiasm to try out new ways of being church. As we enter this second year of COVID-19, I am more convicted than ever that this must be more than a time of waiting and isolation. Together we can embrace this moment to be the Christ's church in new ways.

- 1) **We will be welcoming.** We recognize that at least 30% of our members are considered at-risk and the most welcoming thing we can do is create a safe worship environment. **Our worship guidelines allow us to return to a hybrid worship of both in-person and online when the local testing levels fall below 10% for two weeks in a row.** We expect that may happen soon, and when it does we will continue to love our neighbor by wearing a mask at all times and keeping socially distant both during and after worship. That may mean being willing to sit in a new pew, smiling and waving instead of offering a hug or handshake, and reserving your catching up time until you are outside. If you are showing ANY signs of illness you absolutely need stay at home. You may follow different guidelines in your personal life, but at church we need to be safe enough to welcome all.
- 2) **We will invest in spiritual experiences.** Our worship will continue to change and evolve over the coming months as more and more of you receive your vaccine. In the meantime, we are continuing to re-invent church for this era. I hope you are enjoying your Lent-in-a-bag devotional as much as I am. In this newsletter you will also find information for a **Palm Sunday Car Parade, a virtual Good Friday Prayer Breakfast with the YMCA,** and a safely distanced **Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt.** These spiritual experiences may look or feel different from past traditions, but God's Spirit is moving in new ways!

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- 3) **We will be energized for love and care.** We know that Christ's command to love our neighbor is not on hiatus during the pandemic. Our mission and outreach continue to be as powerful as ever. Our Souper Bowl of Caring Drive-Thru was a big success in spite of the weather, and our care for our most vulnerable members has stayed strong. Even as we cannot yet visit in person, we continue to send cards, make calls, and pray together. If you want to be a part of our efforts I invite you to reach out to me, I have lots of ways to put your gifts to work!

*Carlin Dejeu*

## ***Congregational Life***

### **Palm Sunday Car Parade**

Hosanna! Palm Sunday is a day for parades and palm waving, and this year we are taking it to the streets! Join us on March 28th at 11:45 AM in the church parking lot for a Palm Sunday Car Parade. This is a time to get creative and decorate your cars with window paint, streamers, and signs! We will provide the palm branches and lead you on a parade past the homes of several of our members who could use a little bit of Palm Sunday cheer. While I wish we could visit every home, we have created a route that will hit a dozen or so members in 45 minutes. If you want to visit a few other friends on your way home, I encourage you to do so! The parade leaves from the church parking lot promptly at noon- don't miss it!

### **Good Friday Community Prayer Breakfast**

Join us for the Good Friday Community Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the Chesterfield County YMCAs: Manchester, Midlothian, Chester, and Swift Creek.

For the past 10 years, these area Y's have joined together to support this annual event which usually takes place in person, attended by more than 150 guests. Last year unfortunately, was cancelled due to COVID - 19. This year we will gather by Zoom on Friday, April 2nd at 8:00 AM. Please join us as we celebrate the theme of Diversity, Unity, and Healing with prayer, music and special speakers. This is a wonderful way to start off the Easter weekend. Grab a cup of coffee and your favorite breakfast treat, and be prepared to be inspired! Information on how to join the event virtually will be sent out closer to the event.

### **Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Join us on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We are continuing to monitor the Covid positivity rate, and we are hopeful that we will be able to offer a fun and safe Easter celebration for families. We will keep you updated, but in the meantime, I hope you'll mark your calendars to join us!

The format and safety measures for this year's Egg Hunt will be much like Fall Festival last October. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** You will register to attend the hunt with your family for **one hour** between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Up to 5 families can attend per hour.

Register here: [bit.ly/SouthminsterEaster](https://bit.ly/SouthminsterEaster)

We want everyone to have a ton of fun, but we also want everyone to stay safe and healthy! The Easter Egg Hunt will be entirely outside, and we will not be offering any food or drink. We ask you and your children to wear your masks the entire time you're at the festival and remain 6 feet distanced from others. Volunteers will do the same! We will have some extra masks available, as well as hand sanitizing stations. Bring your Easter baskets and join us at church! Hope to see you there!

### **RISC Rally**

On Monday, March 1st at 7:00 PM RISC is holding a rally, accessible by Zoom, to prepare for our annual Nehemiah Action Assembly. Southminster has been committed to RISC (with 22 member congregations) for the past three years, and we have had some successes supporting “the least of these” in our community who need affordable housing and relief from gun violence. If you would like to attend either or both of these assemblies, please contact Shelley Murray at 804-837-8774.

This is a great opportunity to “just see” what RISC is all about. You will not be making any commitment, and you will not be expected to speak - just watch and learn. You won’t be disappointed! The purpose of the Nehemiah Action is to ask elected officials to commit to RISC’s suggestions about how best to proceed. The officials have already agreed to attend. We hope that 1300 constituents will be there, and we can do that with your help. To learn more, visit <https://www.riscrichmond.org/>

### **Chair Yoga**

Chair Yoga is still on hiatus due to Covid-19, but we hope to start back up again this spring if numbers continue to improve. All members and friends are welcome to join us every Monday at Noon in the Fellowship Hall for a fun hour-long exercise class.

Pam DeWitt, our super instructor, leads us through various exercises either sitting in or standing beside a chair (but NOT down on the floor). We work on breathing, stretching and balance. Most of us are seniors so we're not always able to do every aspect of each exercise, but that's OK. We just do our best. No experience or prior registration is necessary.

Our church sponsors this program so there is no fee, but a free will offering is accepted. The fun part is doing it together. Contact Bonnie Kowalski at 804-745-8740 or [bonniek6@verizon.net](mailto:bonniek6@verizon.net) if you have questions or would like more information.

## ***Facilities***

### **New Covenant Organ News**

William Bullock and his mother Susan are so grateful to have received the organ from New Covenant!

William is a junior at Collegiate School and has studied piano and organ with Gabriella Ryan since he was 6 years old. This year he also won the American Guild of Organists Scholarship. He is also a former violin student of Kimberly Ryan, and his trio, Trif3cta, is made up of current and former Collegiate Orchestra students. We hope to have William as a guest musician at Southminster very soon!



## Holy Week & Easter Craft: Flowering the Cross

*Please find the cross and flowers on Page 5*

### **Holy Week:**

Color and cut out the cross.

Place the cross on your dining table, or other commonly used surface in your house.

Place a pack of sticky notes and a pen next to the cross.

Throughout the week, as you pass the cross, write prayers on the sticky notes and stick them to the cross.

### **Easter Morning:**

Color and cut out the flowers.

Remove all the sticky note prayers from the cross.

Replace them with the flowers which represent the joy of new life Easter brings.

Say together "Alleluia! He is risen!"

## New Narthex Seating Area

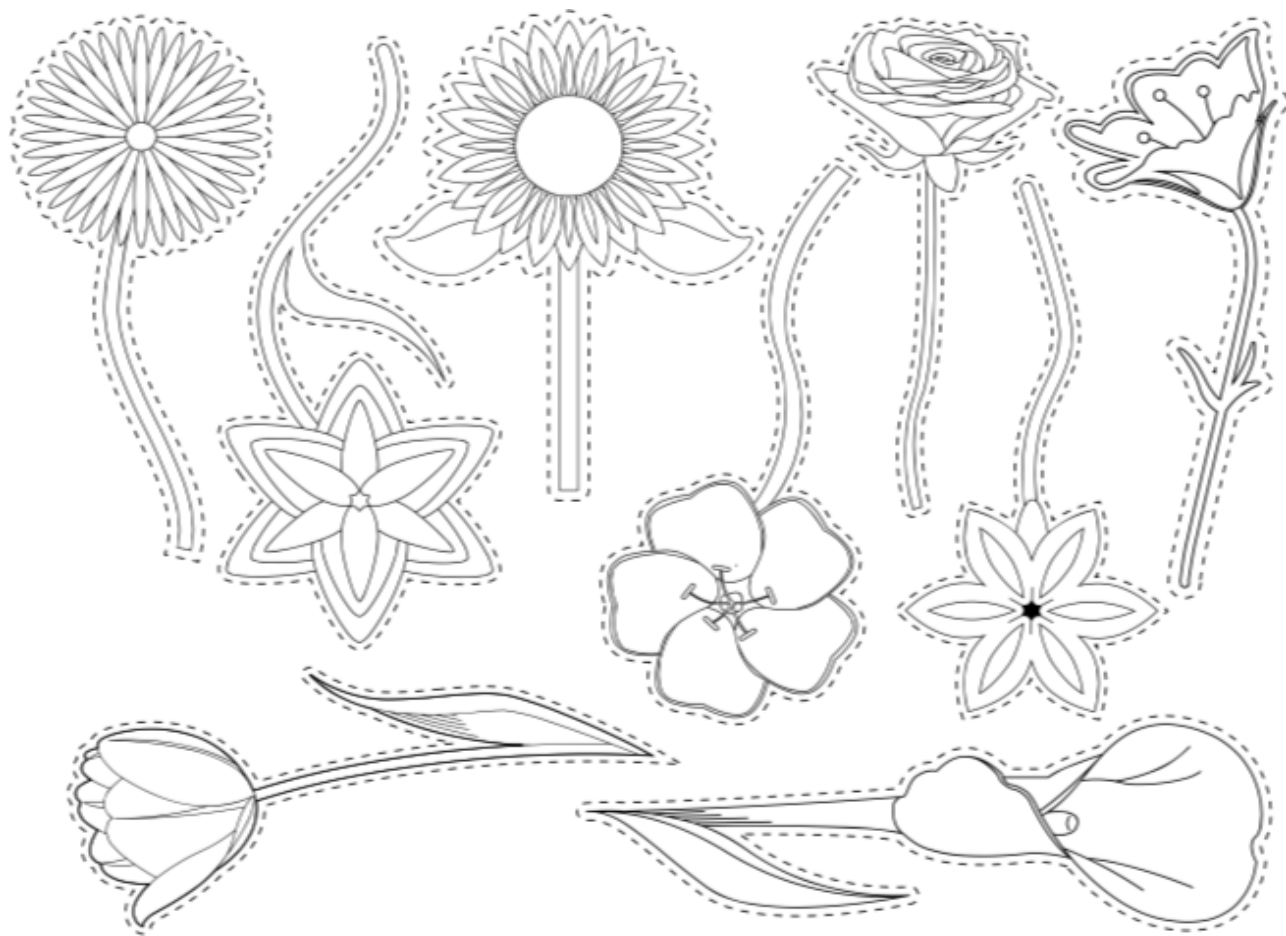
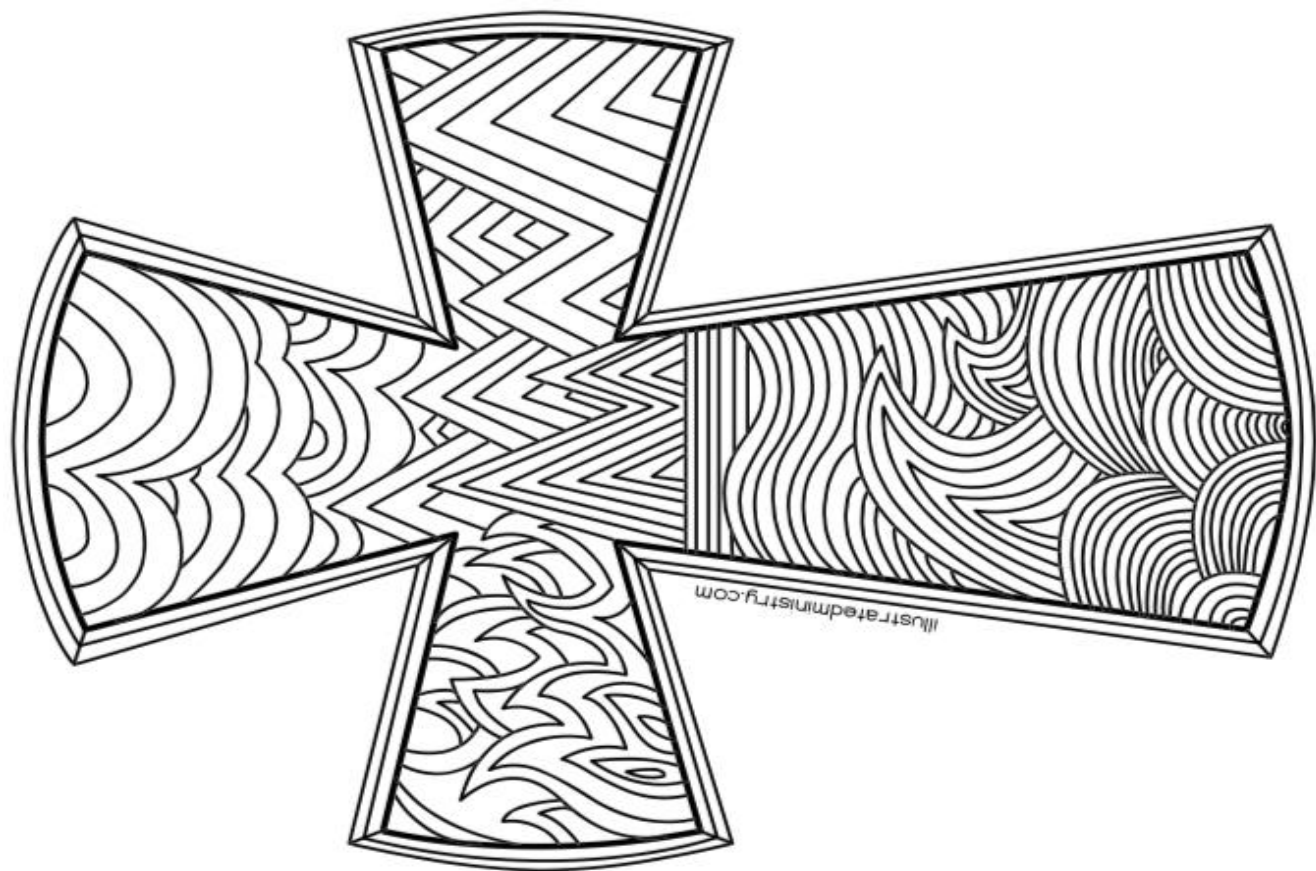
The next time you visit us in person, you may notice that the Southminster Narthex has undergone a bit of a makeover! We are especially excited about our new seating area made up of furniture brought over from New Covenant. Once we are safely able to gather together again, we hope that people will find it to be a good space to rest, chat, and enjoy casual fellowship.



## Session Highlights

- Approved 2020 Statistical Report
- Approved Special offerings for the 2021 church year
- Approved new members, Bill & Patsy Hevener
- Discussed Lent and Easter plans based on Covid-19 conditions. Details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.





## ***March Birthdays***

- 2 Jane Lewis, Liz Snead, Thomas Swenck
- 5 Ted Coryell, Lynn Hodges
- 7 Jim Hall, ChiChi Huff, Megan Pond,
- 9 Ann Kearns
- 10 Matt Ball
- 14 Janet Crawford
- 15 Katie Roland
- 17 Jane McGee, Ryan Witcher,  
Andrew Grogan
- 18 Pattie Pinchbeck
- 22 Anne Dugger, Emily Cruciata,  
Andrew Bookman
- 23 Christy Jones
- 26 Matthew Endries
- 28 Mark Endries,
- 31 Bernie Chamberlain, Jane Tarter,  
Emily Ball

## ***March Anniversaries***

- 24 Hal & Debbie King (40)

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

## ***March Schedules***

***If you at any time are not comfortable with being  
physically present on your scheduled day,  
please notify your schedule's organizer.***

***Due to the evolving Covid-19 situation,  
some schedules may not apply if  
Sunday service is online only.***

### **Food Closet**

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

## **Remember in Prayer**

Please pray for our military personnel, Bob Davis, Matt Davis, Mark Endries, Carolyn Griles, Bob Hall, Ann Kearns, Bev Lamberton, Alberta Lindsey, Shirley Martin, Jane McGee, Earl & Donna Medicus, George Reid, Adele Robertson, Billy Smith, Dave Thomas, Howard Vann, Ryan Witcher

## **Welcome New Members!**

### **Rose Dugger**

Commonwealth Senior Living  
4931 Ridgedale Parkway  
Richmond, VA 23235

### **Bill & Patsy Hevener**

3701 Echoway Road  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23234  
804-275-9130  
Honeybab1@msn.com

## **Directory Updates**

### **Austin Smith**

9110 Old Mayland Way  
Henrico, VA 23294  
804-543-4392  
gas658@gmail.com

### **Ken & Kathy Brammer**

Ken Cell: 804-647-8472  
Kathy Cell: 804-921-0256

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 PM: RISC Zoom Rally	2 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	3	4 Food Closet	5 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 7:30 PM: IPCN
7 Communion 10 AM: Lent Zoom Study 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	8	9 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	10	11 Food Closet	12 7:30 PM: IPCN	13 10 AM: Girl Scout Cookie Drive Thru 7:30 PM: IPCN
14 Daylight Saving 10 AM: Lent Zoom Study 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Pastor's Aid 3 PM: IPCN	15	16 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	17	18 Food Closet	19 7:30 PM: IPCN	20 10 AM: Girl Scout Cookie Drive Thru 7:30 PM: IPCN
21 10 AM: Lent Zoom Study 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	22	23 Food Closet 7 PM RISC Nehemiah Action on Zoom 7:30 PM: IPCN	24	25 Food Closet	26 7:30 PM: IPCN	27 7:30 PM: IPCN
28 Palm Sunday 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Car Parade 3 PM: IPCN	29	30 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	31			
		Notes  Disclaimer: Due to the evolving Covid-19 situation items on the calendar are subject to change, or may reflect standing events not currently meeting in person.				

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Phone: 804-276-1749

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

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

**Return Service Requested**

**March 2021**

**RISC Nehemiah Action**



March 23, 2021  
7:00 – 8:30 PM  
On Zoom

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.



# 2021 Easter Lily Orders

Easter lily dedications are a wonderful way to remember and honor loved ones. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost of each lily is \$10.00.

To purchase and dedicate lilies, fill out the order form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, March 21st**. Checks should be made payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Dedicated By: \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish my dedication to read as follows:**

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**(Dedications will be printed exactly as written.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to keep my flower

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my flower to be delivered to a special care member