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***From the Pastor***

Dear Southminster.

The church of Christ has entered the season of Lent.

During Lent a question which lives in our sub-consciousness, compiled by our experiences of and attached meaning of Lent, surfaces into our consciousness. We ask ourselves; “What must I give up during Lent to grow closer to God?”

Maybe Lent asks us to ask a different question; “What must I *embrace* during Lent to grow closer to God?”

One answer is; “Believe and live what you confess”.

We should remember that what the Apostle’s Creed invites us to confess, is not a belief in “sins” or even “sin”, but rather in the “forgiveness of sins”. It is this forgiveness that constitutes the reality of the life Christ has made. Jesus Christ is the “forgiveness of sins” that has triumphed over sin and sins and it, forgiveness, is this gift that determines and shapes the Christian life.

To believe in “the forgiveness of sins” as a description of the Christian life is to say that the Christian life has at its center not me, but Jesus Christ. He is the only righteousness we have, the only hope that permits us to receive ourselves and others as God’s forgiven children. But in him, our forgiveness is real and we can dare to venture into that ridiculous comedy that is the Christian life, set free to rejoice in the grace that refuses to damn us, or anyone else, or let anyone go.

Want to give something up for lent to get closer to God? Embrace forgiveness. Live forgiveness. One can’t get closer to God than to live that what He was prepared to let his Son die for.

Blessed “forgiveness season” to you.

***Rev. Jock O’Connell***

**Holy Week & Easter Schedule****Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

11:00 AM Service

12:00 PM "Foods of All Nations" Potluck Lunch

Details to come

**Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM Service

**Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Service

11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

**Help Fill the Easter Eggs**

We will soon be accepting donations of candy and small treats which will be used to fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please leave your donations in the marked collection basket in the Fellowship Hall by April 2<sup>nd</sup>. No nut products, please.

***Church In The World*****RISC Nehemiah Action**

We profess to want to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." Of these three, the first - do justice - is the one we rarely have the chance to do.

The annual RISC Nehemiah Action gives us this chance. March 28th at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's Baptist Church, people from roughly twenty area congregations will gather to ask our elected officials to do justice for "the least of these" by directing a dedicated stream of funding into an Affordable Housing Trust Fund so that more housing can be built for low-income families. The Richmond area has a deficit of 39,000 units! A robust trust fund is crucial for attracting developers who will build these units. We will also be asking for additional funds to repair or replace mobile homes, where heating/cooling and mold/mildew problems are deplorable.

Your RISC team members would love to invite EVERYBODY to join us. All are welcome, whether you have been involved in RISC before this point or not. St. Paul's is in a rural setting with lots of parking, at 4247 Creighton Rd (between 64E and 295). There will be carpools leaving from Southminster at 5:15 PM. For more information, call or email Shelley Murray.

**New Covenant Mission Fund Disbursement**

At the end of 2020, Southminster merged with New Covenant Presbyterian Church. As part of this merger, the former New Covenant property was sold, and a portion of the proceeds reverted to Southminster. A special committee comprised of former New Covenant members was formed to determine how these funds should be used.

The total of funds designated as the New Covenant Mission Fund is \$306,655.00. The committee determined that the funds will be distributed over the course of 6 years. In 2023 \$34,482.37 will be used for the following projects, in keeping with missions that were dear to member of New Covenant. We thank the committee for their hard work and stewardship.

**Hunger:** Southminster Food Closet - \$6,000

**Veterans:** Richmond Fisher House - \$6,000

**Outreach/Shut Ins:** Audio/Visual Equipment \$6,000

**Seniors/Ministers:** Board of Pensions of the PCUSA for retired ministers - \$6,000

**Children:** Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands - \$6,000

The dispersal of the remaining \$4,482.37 will be determined at a later date in 2023 or carried over to next year.

**Leadership & Planning**

**Faith Formation Search Team**

A search team for our new Faith Formation professional has been formed and is already hard at work. The first stage of the search, reviewing and making updates to the job description, has been completed. The team will now move forward with circulating the job notice to prospective candidates. Session will keep the congregation updated on their progress.

**Facilities**

**Spring Work Party**

The Facilities Committee will host a spring work party at Southminster on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our day will begin at 8:30 AM. Volunteers are needed to help with chores and small repairs to make sure the building is spruced up and ready for Palm Sunday and Easter. Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM.

We’ll have plenty of jobs available for every skill level. Contact Brown Pearson for details.

**Presbyterian Women**

**Martha Circle**  
March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room

**Ruth Circle**  
March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room

**Anna Circle**  
March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

**Children's Sunday School Changes**

Beginning March 5, 2023, the Sunday School Children's Program, "The Gathering" will move from Sundays at 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Children will begin this program in the sanctuary and participate in the Worship Service with their families and will be excused to attend a children's education program prior to the beginning of the sermon. The children will remain in the Sunday School Room designated as "The Gathering" and can be picked up at the end of the Worship Service.

By making this change we hope to create special time centered for the family. We are committed to teaching your children lessons in the Bible and tools to lead a Christian centered life. Not only will we focus on beloved Bible stories, but we also want to include some memory work such as the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology making their worship experience more powerful.

What if you miss a Sunday? Do not worry, we plan to have lessons for the week sent to your child so that you can review at home. If you have any questions or are available to help us during The Children's Program, please contact me or any of the Sunday School teachers.

*Laura Pearson*

**2023 Easter Lily Orders**

We will begin taking orders for Easter lilies on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to order is **Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. Lilies are \$11.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church.

Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, or you can contact the church office regarding your order.

**Session Highlights**

- Stay tuned for pre-printed name tags to be available for all members to keep here at the church.
- We are planning a "Meal of All Nations" to follow our Palm Sunday service on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Details to come.
- Easter Sunday service will be at 10:00 AM with the Easter Egg Hunt to follow at 11:00 AM.
- We accepted Rodney Shade as a new active member of Southminster Presbyterian Church.

## **Photographers Wanted**

If you attend a Southminster event, consider taking a few pictures and sending them along to the office. Photographs can be used on our website, social media, and promotional materials. You can email your photos to [office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org).

## **Save the Date: Rise Against Hunger**

Our 2023 Rise Against Hunger event has been scheduled for Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. This is possible due to a very generous, anonymous donor who has funded the 2023 event.

## **Welcome, New Member!**

**Rodney & Pat\* Shade**  
4910 Ventura Road  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
804-495-7517  
rodneyshade560@gmail.com

## **Directory Updates**

**Curtis Radt**  
Cell: 704-999-4701

**Karen Radt**  
Cell: 804-337-6387

**Jean Derrenbacker**  
Cell: 804-310-7354

**Marsha Lane**  
Cell: 804-920-8561

**Connie Goodman**  
cpgoodman@comcast.net

**Phil Stillman**  
c/o Anita Bickel  
9417 Kennesaw Road  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236  
804-674-5242

**Ramona Clopton**  
*Correction*  
Apt. 320

## **Southminster Notes**

Dear Southminster members and friends. Jeff and I would like to thank you for the cards, texts, and especially the prayers as we have been dealing with my broken ankle! PT has begun and I have an excellent nurse, so I'm feeling truly blessed!

*Jeff & Tammy McDonald*

## ***March Birthdays***

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

## ***March Anniversaries***

- 24 Hal & Debbie King (44)

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

## ***March Schedules***

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

### **Communion Team**

March 5: Team 2

### **Elder Greeters**

- 5 Robin Lapsley
- 12 Frank Grier
- 19 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 26 Jennifer Weddle

### **Facility Stewards**

- 5 Howard Boughton
- 12 Jerry Davis
- 19 Jim Hall
- 26 Mark Endries

### **Ushers**

- 5 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 12 Girl Scout Sunday
- 19 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 26 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

### **Food Closet**

- 2 Barbara Reid, Ann Potts
- 7 Mary Stahl, Rose Spradin
- 9 Bonnie Kowalski, Melba Jolly
- 14 Cheriene McCall, Frank Grier
- 16 Jane Williams, Ann Wilkins
- 21 Rose Spradin, Ann Potts
- 23 Bonnie Kowalski, Shelley Murray
- 28 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 20 Jane Williams, Frank Grier

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## March 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle 4:30 PM RISC Team Mtg. 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	<b>2</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>3</b> 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>4</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>5</b> Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>6</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>7</b> Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>8</b> 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	<b>9</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>10</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>11</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	
<b>12</b> Girl Scout Sun 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 10:15 Pastor's Aids 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>13</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>14</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>15</b> 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	<b>16</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>18</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	
<b>19</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	<b>20</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>21</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>22</b> 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	<b>23</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>24</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>25</b> 7:30 AM: IPCN Fasting 7:30 PM: IPCN	
<b>26</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>27</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>28</b> Food Closet 5:15 PM: Carpool to Nehemiah Action 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>29</b> 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH) 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	<b>30</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>31</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN		
Notes Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.							

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

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

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

**Return Service Requested**

# March 2023



**Changes coming to the  
Children's Sunday School Class  
beginning Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Read about "The Gathering" on page 4**



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.