



Keyhole Press

Southminster Presbyterian

May 2021

From the Pastor

Friends, as I am writing this, our state is officially opening vaccination appointments to anyone age 16 or older. I have been so grateful to hear so many of your stories of getting vaccinated and I am looking forward to more friends and family experiencing that same relief and gratitude!

With this new opening I want to extend an open invitation to anyone who needs help making an appointment or getting a ride to get in touch with me. I am happy to help get you protected!

As a faith leader I think a lot about making milestones in our lives and the prayers, rituals, and symbols that surround those turning points. When I think of any individual's faith journey I think of it as a series of milestones that we mark together as a faith community. I think first of baptism, that moment of celebrating a new life with water, song, and blessings. As our children grown in God we celebrate each milestone all the way to confirmation, and finally their Senior Youth Sunday when celebrate their graduation and send them into the world with our blessing. In our adult life we mark the beginning of relationships and families with a wedding ceremony. We mark years of service with ordination and installation prayers and the laying on of hands. We mark retirements, illnesses, and recoveries with prayers, cards, and special gifts. And of course, we mark the loss of our loved ones with the ritual of a funeral. Rituals help us make meaning from our life. Rituals help us say hello and goodbye. They give us comfort and closure. They give us space to process and release our emotions. Most of all, they remind us of the presence of God with us at every step in our journey.

So, I encourage you to mark this pandemic turning point with a small ritual for yourself. Whether you have long completed your vaccine or still have questions that you need to talk with your physician about- it is good to take a moment to reflect. Find a quiet place, maybe on your porch, at your kitchen table, or out on a walk. Light a candle or pour a cup of coffee and spend some time remembering all you have overcome in this year, and all the hopes you have going forward. It might be good to make a list or talk out loud to God about it. Then take some time to pray. You can use one of the prayers I've shared on page 5, or speak in your own words.

In this newsletter you will also find an invitation to continue that process of reflection alongside others in our Covid Conversations, as well as updates on opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service that are slowly returning, in large part because of the protection provided by the vaccine. I hope to be seeing more of you face to face over the next few months!

Pastor Caitlin

Covid Conversations

Let's talk! During the month of May we will be holding a series of small group Covid Conversations to reflect both individually and collectively on the past year and dream together about where God is leading our church in this season of resurrection. We hope as many of you as possible will join us for some time of conversation and prayer. Each session will follow the same format, so feel free to choose the time most convenient for you!

- May 9th, 10 AM- Weather Permitting, Outside on the Picnic Tables
- May 23, 12 PM- On Zoom- Please RSVP to pastor@southpreschurch.org for the link.
- May 30, 10 AM- Weather Permitting, Outside on the Picnic Tables

First Sunday Fellowship: Garden Planting

Join us on Sunday, May 2nd at 10:00 AM between worship services to help plant our garden. We will have all the plants, gloves, and garden tools you need, plus a healthy snack. Caitlyn Hathaway will also read a story to the children, though this fellowship event is for members of all ages. We hope you'll join us!

If you are interested in joining our team of garden caregivers and are willing to take a week to water and weed this summer, sign-ups will be available!

Church in the World

RISC: Nehemiah Action Report

The 2021 Nehemiah Action brought together some serious power, with around 2000 attending from all around Richmond, 700 more than our goal and a RISC record. Southminster had set a goal of 40 to attend and we outdid ourselves with 56! If you'd like to see a recording of the meeting, please visit YouTube and do a search for Nehemiah Action Assembly 2021.

We got some great press the next day, with an article in the *Times-Dispatch* and another on NBC12. For our Affordable Housing issue, Councilpersons Lynch and Jones publicly committed to champion our two "asks" for this year –

- \$10 million in the budget for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Half of the dollars in the Trust Fund going toward the creation of units for households making 30% AMI and below

For our Gun Violence issue, Richmond Police Chief Smith did not fully commit to applying for the state funding to conduct the Problem Analysis (the necessary first step in implementing a proven, evidence-based gun violence intervention program). However, once the grant details are released (any day now), we plan to follow up with Chief Smith and are hopeful we can get him "to a yes" on this.

If anyone is interested in joining the RISC team at SPC, please let Shelley Murray or Rich Kowalski know. These issues are ongoing, and there are meetings every week (always on Zoom), so if you are passionate about making sure they are addressed, please let us know.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering was officially collected on Easter Sunday, April 4th, but to our extreme gratification we saw generous donations come in all through the month of April. **We are pleased to report that we collected \$1,055.00 for the One Great Hour of Sharing in 2021.** Donations are used domestically and globally by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for three outreach missions: hunger assistance, natural disaster relief, and self-development of people.

Hunger actions include helping with immediate needs and addressing chronic poverty and its effects. In disaster relief, both the physical and the emotional needs of affected persons are addressed. Self-development of people helps those experiencing oppression, injustice, and poverty and to educate all Presbyterians about how these experiences affect our brothers and sisters.

Leadership & Planning

Job Opening: Worship Technology Coordinator

The personnel committee is looking for a part time Worship Technology Coordinator. This position will oversee our weekly livestream as well as take the lead on improving our worship experience, upgrading our equipment, and training volunteers. We are excited to make this investment in the future of our church to better serve our members and increase the quality of our virtual outreach. If you know someone with Audio/Visual experience who would be interested in this 10 hour/week position please contact Pastor Caitlin at pastor@southpreschurch.org for the full job description and requirements.

Facilities

Southminster Outdoors

Spring is in the air and the Facilities Committee has been hard at work getting our outdoor spaces ready for the season.

On our Work Day in late March, the outdoor chapel received special attention in preparation for the beginning of outdoor worship in late April. Our volunteers also placed a great deal of new outdoor furniture that we received from New Covenant. You'll find extra picnic tables and benches at the playground, stone benches by the Cub Scouts fire pit, and new bench seating outside the front entrance. We hope our members enjoy our abundant new outdoor seating options!



Congratulations to Caitlyn Hathaway!

On Sunday May 9th we will recognize Caitlyn Hathaway on her graduation from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Caitlyn has been such a wonderful part of our community for these past two years as our Seminary Intern and Director of Faith Formation. She will continue on with us as she begins the process of seeking a ordained call but we wanted to take this moment to recognize her accomplishment! Notes of congratulations can be sent to caitlynhathaway@gmail.com or mailed to the church office.

Southminster Bell & Sanctuary Choir

The Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir are both back in action making glorious music for our worship services! Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening, Ringers at 6:00 pm and Choir at 7:00 pm. We follow church protocols of physical distancing and masking, and we create videos to share with the congregation during Sunday worship.

The commitment only includes Wednesday evenings, no Sunday morning rehearsals at this time. We absolutely have room for more members in both groups, and would love to have you! No experience is required. We will take a break for the summer starting in June, so now is an excellent time to dip your toes into a new musical experience. Contact Kimberly Ryan at keliseryan@gmail.com or 804-658-9804 for more information, and join us!

Save The Date For Day Camp

Save the dates, August 2—6, 2021, for day camp at Southminster Presbyterian Church. It is uncertain if we will be able to partner with Camp Hanover this year due to Covid-19. However if we are not, our staff and volunteers are already planning an alternative curriculum and series of activities for children entering kindergarten—6th grade. As in past years we will also offer a half-day program for toddlers and preschoolers. Keep watching for more information.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with either Day Camp or Toddler Fun Week, please contact Sue Rhodes (804-938-9299) or Laura Pearson (804-387-3913).

Care Visitation Program

Plans are being made to restart our Care Visitation Program starting this June. If you are interested in visiting and bringing a care bag to one of our homebound members (a couple of times in the coming year), please give Karen Stafford a call at 804-271-3597. This program is a great way to serve and care for people in our congregation who would enjoy a brief visit. Our Careful Chefs have also restocked the freezer with meals! So if you know someone in need please feel free to spread the love!

Youth Sunday/Grad Recognition

Save the date for Youth Sunday on May 16th! Our small but mighty Southminster youth group will lead us in worship. We will also take time to recognize all of our graduates. So if you, your children, or grandchildren are graduating from a degree or certification program please contact the church office with their name, information, and plans for what is next, so that we can include them in our blessing!

Prayers for Receiving the Covid Vaccine

I have been praying for this day and now it is here!
 With great excitement, a touch of trepidation
 And with deep gratitude I give thanks
 To all the scientists who toiled day and night
 So that I might receive this tiny vaccination
 That will protect me and all souls around this world.
 With the pandemic still raging
 I am blessed to do my part to defeat it.
 Let this be the beginning of a new day,
 A new time of hope, of joy, of freedom
 And most of all, of health.
 I thank You, God, for blessing me with life
 For sustaining my life
 And for enabling me to reach this awe-filled
 moment. Amen
Rabbi Naomi Levy

Lord, help me to receive today.
 Help me receive your abounding love, which is
 ever-present in the creative community.
 A community of artists and makers, weavers and
 poets, explorers and scientists.
 May I receive today a created vaccine that came
 from your creative work in the world.
 May I receive the good work of your creative
 partners, giving you all glory for this gift, and
 gratitude to the people who made this possible.
 May I receive this gift and may I rest from all labor,
 allowing the beauty of the vaccine to protect
 my body from harm.
 And after this receiving, full of gratitude, God, may I
 give my creativity for your glory, building a better
 community, full of hope for tomorrow.
 Amen.
Rev. Krystal Leedy

Directory Updates

Brent & Jane Tarter
 Home Phone: 804-658-1823

Southminster Notes

Mel Bookman and family express their deep appreciation and love to everyone at Southminster for their outflowing of love during the recent loss of Linda. From prayers for her recovery, to the outpouring of cards, gifts to Food Closet, aiding in her memorial service, and telephone calls to ease the pain, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thanks to all who sent prayers for my surgery. I'm definitely feeling better, and appreciate your concern.

Gabriella Ryan

We appreciate the kindness of those who shared Palm Sunday with us in the drive-by with palms. Thanks to all of you for your time and interest in sharing with us. May the Lord be with each and everyone on of you.

Art & Ginny Williams

Dear Southminster Family,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for sending the care package to my dorm. My roommate and I really enjoyed the candy and goodies you sent! It meant a lot to me to receive such a nice gift from the church. It also reminded me of all the people back home that mean so much to me!

Love to all,
Jacob Wetzel

May Birthdays

- 1 Lauren Weddle
- 2 Bobbi Briggs
- 9 Guy Dixon, Doug Briskman
- 10 Ron Howlett
- 12 Ron Crenshaw
- 13 Bob Hall
- 14 David Stahl
- 15 Margaret Hall, Ryan Willis
- 16 Linda Abercrombie
- 22 Laura Pearson,
Kate Bunkholt, Owen Bunkholt
- 23 Ron Witcher, Melody Clopton
- 24 Elizabeth Waldron
- 25 Susan Pharr
- 29 Wendy Briskman, David Reeser

May Anniversaries

- 10 John & Carolyn Surber (46)
- 16 Marty & Dixie Kovacs (57)
- 17 Mike & Cindy Ferguson (24)
- 21 Jeff & Tammy McDonald (38)
- 24 Ron & Cindy Howlett (41)
- 30 Mark & Tracey Williams (29)

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

May Schedules

***If you cannot be 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.***

Communion Team

May 2nd: Team 3

Elder Greeters

- 2 Terry Liendecker
- 9 Jan Belote
- 16 Matt Briggs
- 23 Frank Grier
- 30 Tracey Williams

Ushers

- 2 Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane
- 9 Guy Dixon, David Huff
- 16 Guy Dixon, Kathy Liesfeld
- 23 Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane
- 30 Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane

Soundboard

- 2 Mark Endries
- 9 The Crawfords
- 16 Gary Smith
- 23 Mark Endries
- 30 The Crawfords

Food Closet

- 4 Lyndale Baptist, Shelley Murray
- 6 Lyndale Baptist, Jane Tarter
- 11 Lyndale Baptist, Terry Liendecker
- 13 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 18 Mary Stahl, Margaret Hall
- 20 Shelley Murray, Lyndale Baptist
- 25 Jane Tarter, Lyndale Baptist
- 27 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski

Southminster Presbyterian Church

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 PM: IPCN
2 Communion 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Garden Fellowship 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	3 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts	4 Food Closet 6:30 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	5 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	6 Food Closet	7 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 7:30 PM: IPCN
9 Mother's Day 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Covid Conversation 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	10 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts	11 Food Closet 6:30 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	12 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	13 Food Closet	14 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 7:30 PM: IPCN
16 Youth Sunday 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	17 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts	18 Food Closet 6:30 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	19 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	20 Food Closet	21 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 7:30 PM: IPCN
23 Pentecost 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Covid Conversation on Zoom 3 PM: IPCN	24 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts	25 Food Closet 6:30 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	27 Food Closet	28 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 7:30 PM: IPCN
30 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Covid Conversation 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	31 Memorial Day Office Closed 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts	Notes				

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

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Phone: 804-276-1749

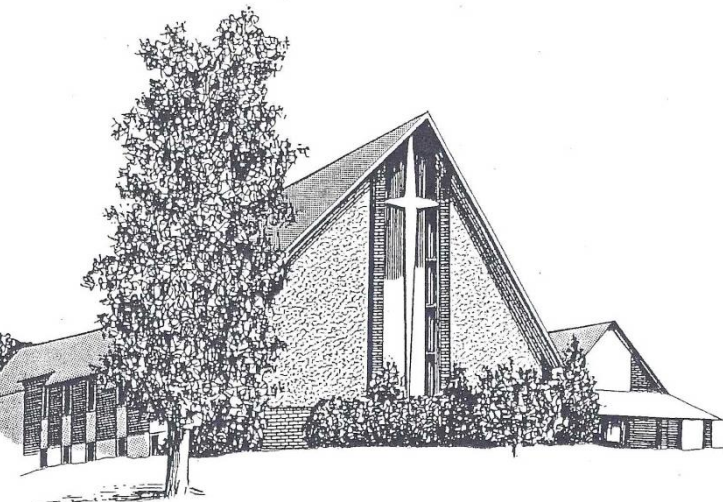
www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

May 2021

Covid Conversations



May 9th at 10:00 AM

**May 23rd at 12:00 PM
(Zoom)**

May 30th at 10:00 AM

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.