



## ***From the Pastor***

### **Resurrection to Harvest**

We have just come through Easter—the proclamation that Christ is risen. The tomb is empty. Death has been overcome. But the church does not linger there. The next great moment in the life of the church is Pentecost.

At first glance, Pentecost may seem like something new. But its roots go deep into the life of Israel. It began as a harvest festival—a celebration of grain gathered from the ground, from the same earth from which, in the beginning, God formed life and breathed His Spirit into it.

And yet, Jesus had already given that image a deeper meaning. In the Gospel of John, He says: unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

That is the bridge between Easter and Pentecost.

Easter is the rising of the One who first fell into the earth. Christ is the grain that was given, buried, and raised. But Pentecost is the harvest of that life. The Spirit is poured out because Christ has first poured Himself out.

Pentecost is not separate from Easter—it is its unfolding.

For the church universal, this means that our life together is rooted in Christ's self-giving. The global church, in all its diversity, is one harvest grown from one life. We are not held together by structure alone, but by the Spirit who gathers what Christ has sown.

For the local congregation, Pentecost is a reminder that life comes not from holding on, but from being given away. Just as the grain must fall into the ground, so the church becomes fruitful not by preserving itself, but by serving, loving, and risking for the sake of others. The Spirit empowers that kind of life—quietly, steadily, faithfully.

For individual Christians, Pentecost invites us into the same pattern. The Spirit is not simply a comfort, but a power that enables us to trust God with what we release—our fears, our control, even parts of our lives we would rather keep. In Christ, nothing given in faith is lost. It becomes seed.

So as we move from Easter toward Pentecost, we are invited to see more clearly: resurrection is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of a harvest. And the Spirit is the gift that brings that harvest to life.

What began in the empty tomb now continues in us—life given, life shared, life made fruitful by the Spirit. So we go forward, trusting that in God's hands, even what we release becomes a harvest.

Blessings

***Rev. Jock O'Connell***

## Manchester Concert Series Welcomes Jared Bookbinder

On Saturday, May 9th the Manchester Concert Series will welcome Jared Bookbinder, who will present a piano concert at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Doors will open at 3:30 PM. Admission is \$10.00 per person, plus a non-perishable food item for the Southminster Food Closet.

Jared has a dynamic piano style that encompasses jazz, ragtime, gospel, showtunes, pop, and classical music. We are excited to welcome him back to Southminster. The concert is open to the public. Please invite your family and friends!

## Save the Date: Ladies' Reunion Luncheon 2026

We hope you will join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 6, from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for our Ladies' Reunion Luncheon. All current and past Southminster members and friends are invited. The reunion team has some exciting and surprising activities planned for this year.

After lunch, we will enjoy the Second-Time-Around Fashion Show. We need "models" who are thrift-shop shoppers and who are willing to model a piece of clothing they have found in a thrift shop. Also, we ask that each person bring one non-perishable food item to contribute to Southminster's Food Closet.

Please RSVP to Joyce Lapsley by email at [jhlwords@comcast.net](mailto:jhlwords@comcast.net) or by text at 804-307-6844 by June 1 to help us plan for this fun event. Also, let us know if you would like to "model."

## **Worship & Education**



## Bible Fun Week

**July 27 - 31, 2026**  
**9:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

*"The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

Join us for Bible Fun Week 2026 at Southminster Presbyterian Church, where we will explore God's love daily through Bible stories, songs, games, arts & crafts and more. Come along as we follow our dog mascot Boaz, 'Bo' for short, as he embarks on a road trip to some amazing places. At every stop he finds that God is right there beside him (and us) every step of the way!

Bible Fun Week is open to preschoolers (age 2) through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders. If your toddler is not yet potty-trained, please be aware that a family member must stay with them. Online registration form coming soon. For more information, please contact the Bible Fun Week Team at [southpresbiblefunweek@gmail.com](mailto:southpresbiblefunweek@gmail.com).

There will be a Bible Fun Week Volunteer meeting on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 PM. If you are interested in helping with Bible Fun Week, we invite you to attend.

*Marit Smith*

## **Southminster's New Pastor: Rev. Mary Kay Scott**

*It is with deep gratitude to God that I share with you the joyful news that Rev. Mary Kay Scott has been called to serve as Southminster's next installed pastor. We look forward with hope and anticipation to welcoming her among us on June 15, with her first Sunday being June 21st.*

*Rev. Jock O'Connell*

Rev. Mary Kay Scott grew up in Maitland, Florida and earned her B.A. from Flagler College in Saint Augustine, FL with a double major in Religion and Psychology. After a brief and colorful season as a youth minister, then a barista, she followed her calling to Columbia Theological Seminary where she earned her master's in divinity.

She was ordained in 1997 and has since served in congregations in the presbyteries of St. Augustine, Middle Tennessee, Central Florida and the James. Rev. Scott is passionate about connecting with people through worship, pastoral care and outreach, finding these the most life-giving parts of ministry. She is the proud mother of three young adult children, who along with her dog Freya, are the loves of her life. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, reading and spending time with friends and family. She has a deep love of beautiful flowers and gardens and is optimistically working towards the day she can truly call herself a gardener.

Rev. Scott is currently the Interim minister at Gayton Kirk. Previously, she was the Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care for First Presbyterian Church in Richmond for 18 years. We look forward to welcoming her to the Southminster on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Witness & Outreach***

### **Changes Coming to the Southminster Food Closet**

In early April we received the news that our long-time community partner, CCHASM, had made the difficult decision to dissolve the organization, with operations concluding on June 30, 2026. For years CCHASM has been an integral part of Southminster's Food Closet, responsible for interviewing and scheduling our Food Closet clients. While we are saddened by the news of its closure, we would also like to take this time to thank CCHASM for its 30+ years of service to our community. We wish the staff and the Board of Directors all the best.

Many of you have wondered what this will mean for the future of the Food Closet. We want to reassure everyone that the Food Closet will continue to carry on its mission to serve those in need in our community. The office and Food Closet leadership are already exploring ways in which we can directly manage and schedule our clients. We expect there will be a bit of a learning curve, but we are confident that we will rise to meet the challenge. We are fortunate to already have a strong framework in place for Food Closet operations that we can build from.

We appreciate your continued support during this time. The Southminster Food Closet would not be possible without your monetary donations and contributions of food. We also couldn't do it without the tireless efforts of our volunteer team, comprised of members from Southminster Presbyterian, Lyndale Baptist, and St. David's Episcopal churches. We are grateful to each and every one of you.

### **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, 2026.

### **CPR and AED Training Class**

In our continuing efforts to promote health and wellness for our church family and others who use our facilities, the session approved the purchase of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The AED arrived and was installed in the Narthex in April, located between the doors to the Fellowship Hall and the windows overlooking the courtyard. The Nurture Committee has also arranged a CPR Training Class, which will be held on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We are pleased to report that nearly all the slots in the class are already filled. Thank you to the Nurture Committee for all your hard work in this endeavor.

### **Farewell Reception for Rev. Jock O'Connell**

After serving for nearly four years as our interim pastor, Rev. Jock will say his farewells to us on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a bittersweet time for Southminster as we say good-bye but also look forward with anticipation and optimism to what the future will hold.

Southminster will honor Jock and his wife Diane with a covered dish reception in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> directly following worship. Everyone in the Southminster circle is invited to attend. Southminster will provide the main course; please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. Please join us as we show our appreciation to the O'Connells and wish them well in their next chapter.

### **Session Highlights**

- Approved March 2026 Financial Report
- Approved new Youth Camp and Conference Policy (copies can be found in mailbox marked "Youth" next to Church Office)
- Approved **not** to begin Outdoor Church Services the first of June but rather wait for Rev. Scott's input into start date.
- Approved Lisa Tulley as new coordinator for RISC. Next Rise Against Hunger event will be October 18, 2026
- Approved new co-leaders and teachers for Bible Fun Week
- Elected Susan Edwards to attend called POJ meeting on May 12, 2026

## **We Pray For:**

Ramona Clopton, Patsy Hevener, Winki Lampe, Jim & Jane Lewis, Shirley Martin, Donna Medicus, Nancy Peters, Lynda & Charles Reed, Billy Smith, Susan Teller, Art & Ginny Williams, Lora Anderson

**For the full list of Joys & Concerns, please see the pastor's weekly email.**

**Contact [pastor@southpreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@southpreschurch.org) if you or a loved one would like to be added to the list.**

## **Southminster Notes**

Dear Southminster,

It is with deep gratitude to God that I share with you the joyful news that Rev. Mary Kay Scott has been called to serve as Southminster's next installed pastor. We look forward with hope and anticipation to welcoming her among us on June 15th, with her first Sunday being June 21<sup>st</sup>. Even now, we hold her and her family in our prayers as they prepare for this transition, trusting that God is already at work in what lies ahead.

I also want to express heartfelt thanks to the members of our Pastor Nominating Committee. Over the past year, they have given themselves with remarkable dedication, prayerfulness, and care. Their work has not simply been a process, but a faithful discernment of God's leading for this congregation. We are deeply grateful for their service.

As for me, my final Sunday with you will be May 31st. That date carries with it both gratitude and tenderness. It has been a privilege to walk alongside you in ministry, to share in the life of this congregation, and to witness the many ways God's grace has been at work among you.

In this season of transition, we are reminded that the church belongs not to any one person, but to Christ, who leads us faithfully from one chapter to the next. With that assurance, we give thanks for what has been, and we entrust ourselves with hope to what is yet to come.

Blessings and peace,

*Jock*

Dear Church Family,

I am truly humbled by the outpouring of love, prayers, cards, calls, and food from all of you. I am truly blessed to be part of this loving church family. We thank you and God for putting us together and letting our paths cross and becoming good friends. We love you.

*Becky Rowan*

## ***May Birthdays***

- 2 Bobbi Briggs
- 9 Guy Dixon, Doug Briskman
- 10 Ron Howlett
- 11 Maggie Richardson
- 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
- 28 Patricia Shade
- 29 Wendy Briskman, David Reeser
- 31 Evalyn Toro

## ***May Anniversaries***

- 10 John & Carolyn Surber (51)
- 17 Mike & Cindy Ferguson (29)
- 21 Jeff & Tammy McDonald (43)
- 24 Ron & Cindy Howlett (46)
- 30 Mark & Tracey Williams (34)

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

### **Presbyterian Women**

#### **Anna Circle**

May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
Debbie Greenberg's residence

#### **Martha Circle**

May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room

#### **Ruth Circle**

May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room

## ***May Schedules***

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

### **Communion**

- 3 Team 3  
Elder Servers: Andrew Swenck, Guy Dixon,  
Freya Harper

### **Church Closer for May**

Matt Briggs

### **Ushers**

- 3 Jerry & Cheriene McCall, Kitty Bice, Sue Rhodes
- 10 Pat & Rick Abbott, Rich Kowalski, Frank Grier
- 17 Pat & Rick Abbott, Rich Kowalski, Frank Grier
- 24 Laura Pearson, Candace Young,  
Riki & Dennis Stone
- 31 Luara Pearson, Candace Young,  
Riki & Dennis Stone

### **Food Closet**

- 5 Frank Grier, Carol Todd
- 7 Shelley Murray, Anthony Pais
- 12 Karen Stafford, Cheriene McCall
- 14 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 19 Jane Williams, Ann Potts
- 21 David Stahl, Freya Harper
- 26 Mary Stahl, Jenny Williams
- 28 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 Communion</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 3 PM: IPCN	<b>4</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>5 Food Closet</b> 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>6</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle	<b>7 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>1</b> 3 PM: LVS Meal 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>2</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN 4 PM: Manchester Concert 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>10 Mother's Day</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 3 PM: IPCN	<b>11</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>12 Food Closet</b> 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>13</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle	<b>14 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>15</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>17</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aids 11 AM: Worship 12 PM Bible Fun Week Mtg. 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	<b>18</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>19 Food Closet</b> 8 AM: CPR Training Class 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>22</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>24 Pentecost</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 3 PM: IPCN	<b>25 Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>26 Food Closet</b> 6 PM: Handbells 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>29</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>30</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>31</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 11 AM: Childrens Sun Sch 12 PM: Farewell Reception 3 PM: IPCN		Notes				

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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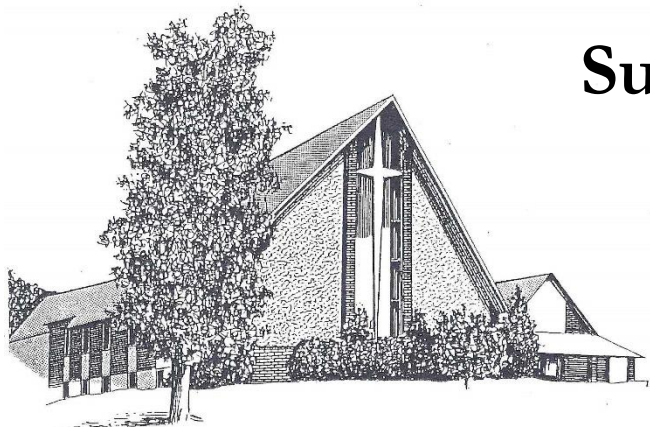
Return Service Requested

**May 2026**

**Farewell Reception for  
Rev. Jock O'Connell**

**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 12 PM**

Join us as we show our  
appreciation to Jock & Diane!  
Please bring a side dish or  
dessert to share.



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.