



From the Pastor

Friends,

If going to church has taught us anything, it's this: you really need to be okay with metaphors to get very far with the Bible. Floods clapping hands? Hills singing together for joy? These are impossible. Of course, that doesn't mean they aren't true, or that they can't happen.

That's why we have such hope for this year's stewardship campaign. So much is different now than it has been; so much has gone wrong. Some among us spent much of the year furloughed; some of us lost our jobs altogether. Some of us were lucky enough to keep our jobs, but are now fearful for the future, and working to save money in new ways. Some of us are retired, but fearing for our hard earned savings in this time of turmoil. A successful stewardship campaign seems impossible.

And yet, we are people who believe in beautiful impossibilities, who shape our lives around the happening of things that simply cannot happen. So we want you to know this: that the God for whom floods clap and hills sing will make this come out alright. If circumstance dictates that you must decrease your pledge, it will be alright. If you keep your pledge the same this year, it will be alright. If you are able to increase your pledge, it will be alright. Because no matter what you and God decide you should give, we'll all be praying this prayer together:

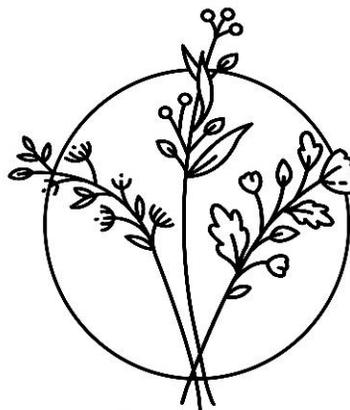
Great One, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing. You know my situation better than anyone. Take my credits and debits, ins and outs, my pluses and minuses, surpluses and lacks, and show me how to use them to join the great chorus of Creation. Amen

You are invited to bring your pledge card to worship on Nov 8th so that we can pray that prayer and participate in God's generosity together. Because no matter whether you place your card in the basket in person or send it in the mail, our prayers have always been the way we follow the example of the fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains.

They are the way we are together for joy.

Peace,

Pastor Caitlin



**TOGETHER
FOR JOY**

Covid-19 Update

As November arrives we come to the close of our extended outdoor worship season! If you have been worshipping with us outside we will be happy to welcome you back to online worship or have you join us in the sanctuary. All of you have been diligent in wearing masks, washing hands, and carefully giving one another space. Thank you! Your continued faithfulness is what makes it possible for us to offer in-person worship as an option. On that note, the session would like to share a few reminders as we move into the colder months.

- As cold and flu season begins, please be cautious. In years past many of us would have waved off mild symptoms, but in these times we ask that you be mindful of any signs of illness and choose to worship from home until you are well.
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have been present at any church event in the past week please call to let the church office know of the potential exposure.

Some limited church groups have begun meeting in person. All in-person gatherings may only take place following these session guidelines:

- The gathering is less than 20 people.
- Masks wearing and social distancing are observed at all times.
- Attendance is recorded and reported to the church office for contact tracing purposes.
- Groups have scheduled meetings with the church office so proper cleaning can be arranged. Some groups will be asked to clean their space following meetings.
- No shared meals.

Church in the World

RISC Update

RISC (Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Communities) has two network teams at Southminster, one led by Rich Kowalski and one led by Shelley Murray. Both teams have had our annual “house meetings,” a time to share our concerns for social justice issues and to commit ourselves to RISC. We would love to have more Southminster folks to join us!

This past year, we succeeded in convincing the Richmond City Council and Mayor Stoney to commit \$10 million to a fund to address affordable housing in the Richmond area; Richmond’s supply of affordable housing is severely below the demand. And we inspired those same folks to begin to address gun violence, although we have more work to do in that area.

If you are interested, please take a look at the RISC website <https://www.riscrichmond.org/> and contact Rich or Shelley. Being a “network team member” involves (1) “attending” the 4 justice ministry assemblies of the year (they are all virtual for 2021: November 9, March 1, March 22, and June 14), (2) inviting at least 3 people to the Nehemiah Action on March 22; this assembly is when we publicly ask elected officials to address our concerns, and (3) seriously considering a financial investment in RISC.

RISC was founded in 2002, consists of 22 member congregations, and employs one lead organizer and a newly added assistant organizer (because of the large number of congregations and because we exceeded our budget goals!).

Commitment Sunday

We will celebrate our shared commitment to a new year of faith on Sunday, November 8th. Our theme for 2020 is Together with Joy, inspired by Psalm 98. No matter what challenges we have faced, or what changes still lay ahead, God will continue to bring us together and point us towards joy!

Please bring your pledge cards to worship with you, or mail them to Southminster Presbyterian Church at 7500 Hull St. Rd., North Chesterfield, 23235.

Advent Study**Advent Study**

Pastor Caitlin is offering a special small group study for Advent. Together we will read “A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas” by Kathy Escobar. You have two options to participate in this four-week study starting December 2nd:

- Wednesdays at 12:00 PM in the Parlor or,
- Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on Zoom.

Whether you plan to join Pastor Caitlin in person or online, please RSVP by emailing pastor@southpreschurch.org or calling the church office. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to order you a book please indicate that preference in your RSVP.

Facilities**Inclement Weather Policy**

In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, the decision to cancel services will be made by the pastor and the facilities chairperson by 7:30 AM.

By 8:00 AM, closing notices will be submitted to local Richmond CBS, NBC, and ABC stations, a notification will be sent to the email list, and a notice will be posted on the church Facebook page. You may also call the church office where the voicemail message will be updated with appropriate information.

Presbyterian Women**Martha Circle**

November 4th at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Anna Circle

No meeting planned for November

Ruth Circle

No meeting planned for November

Esther Circle

No meeting planned for November

Special Announcements

Family Movie Night

Join us for movie night in the sanctuary Saturday, December 12th at 4:00 PM! Bring your blankets and all things cozy and we will watch a Christmas movie together on the projector screen. You can even wear your pajamas!

Registration is required and we are limiting attendance to 20 people total. Masks will be required and social distancing will be in effect. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ACAE2BA0F8CF8-christmas>. Registration will close Wednesday, December 9th.

Pastor's Recommendations

As many of us find ourselves with more time at home I thought I might offer a few recommendations from time to time of books, shows, and other media that might bring your joy!

In this season of stewardship and thanksgiving I find myself returning to a wonderful book by Dianna Butler Bass titled simply “Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks”. This personal and honest reflection on the many ways we often get gratitude wrong and how to get it right is perfect for this time of year.

I also wanted to share a bonus recommendation from Abigail! If you have young children in your life and are struggling with how to continue their faith formation in this strange time, look no further. Abigail loves listening to a podcast called “Child of God” that shares bible stories and lessons in short, kid friendly, episodes perfect for listening in the car.

Session Highlights

- Approved transfer of membership for Debby and Bill McNeer to Swift Creek Presbyterian Church.
- Approved contribution of \$350.00 to the annual Peacemaking Offering with 75% going to PCUSA mission projects and 25% going to local YWCA women's shelter.
- Several changes to church activities that have been affected by the COVID-19 situation.
 - Girl Scout Troop will resume inside meetings on Tuesday evenings.
 - There will be no Progressive dinner, no Birthday party for Jesus.
 - Possibility of nursery being resumed as of December.
 - We are making decisions on a case by case request, all following safety and health protocol.



2020 Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia dedications are a wonderful way to remember and honor loved ones during the holiday season. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on December 13th and 20th. We will order all red poinsettias this year. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10.00.

To purchase and dedicate poinsettias, fill out the order form and return it to the church office by **November 29th**. Checks should be made payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church. In lieu of a bulletin insert, dedications will be published in the January 2021 newsletter. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Dedicated By: _____

I wish my dedication to read as follows:

(Dedications will be printed exactly as written.)

_____ I will take my flower with me on Sunday, December 20th

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



Remember in Prayer

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

Directory Updates

Maggie & Daniel Bass
P.O. Box 5657
Midlothian, VA 23112

Robin & Joyce Lapsley
1724 Juanoak Drive
Richmond, VA 23235

Tod Bigley
1724 Juanoak Drive
Richmond, VA 23235

Dorothy Rippon
9100 Bon Air Crossings Drive
M 305-B
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235

Southminster Notes

To the Dear Congregation at Southminster,

The three of us and our families have been so fortunate to have had an amazing woman as our mother and Nana. We have been further blessed by such a strong Southminster “extended family” who has not only watched and guided us as we’ve grown up, but has lifted us up when we have needed it most. The visits, food, cards, messages, and prayers have been most appreciated and have provided much comfort to us as we’ve mourned Mom’s passing.

We extend special thanks to those who have been able to share blessings with the Food Closet and School Supply Drive, as those sources of nourishment and support for local families were always dear to Mom’s heart.

With our deepest gratitude,
Jay Wheeler, Janet Wheeler Rockafeld, Richard Wheeler, and Families

Dear Southminster Family,

Thank you all for all the cards, texts, phone calls, and prayers that we have received since the death of my brother, Hugh French. They were appreciated and made a big difference and a big help. Thank you all.

Love,
Becky Rowan

Dear Southminster Family,

Ada joins me in thanking all of you for the cards, phone calls, and all other acts of kindness extended to us during my recent hospital stay. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Jim Park

Notes will be published as space permits. Some notes will carry over to next month’s newsletter.

November Birthdays

- 1 Ron Hepp
- 3 Rick Schaffer
- 4 Kaylee Singleton
- 5 Robin Lapsley
- 7 Amanda Bunkholt
- 8 Rick Abbott
- 9 Dave Thomas
- 11 Donna Medicus, Eric Stahl
- 12 Clara Damron
- 13 David Huff, Antonio Mazzamuto
- 15 Tammy McDonald
- 16 Debbie Dugger, Marcia Shipley,
- 17 Caroline Solaimani, Brian Singleton
- 23 Jim Dugger
- 25 Abigail Deyerle, Evan Wheeler,
Andrew Swenck
- 26 Mike Cifelli
- 27 Mark Williams
- 28 Melanie Miller, Tim Weddle
- 28 Mel Bookman

November Anniversaries

- 3 Russ & Deb Ellenberg (41)
- 3 Jane & Brent Tarter (20)
- 5 Andrew & Natira Bookman (7)
- 7 Gary & Anne Smith (39)
- 22 Rosairo & Nan Mazzamuto (21)
- 22 George & Barbara Reid (51)
- 29 Earl & Donna Medicus (46)

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

November Schedules

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

Communion Team

November 1: Team 2

Elder Greeters

- 1 Marty Kovacs
- 8 Matt Briggs
- 15 Frank Grier
- 22 Tracey Williams
- 29 Rich Kowalski

Facility Stewards

- 1 David Huff
- 8 David Kirtley
- 15 Dennis Stone
- 22 Eddie Pearson
- 29 Frank Grier

Ushers

- 1 Terry Liendecker, Guy Dixon,
Kathy Liesfeld, Ben Nwoke
- 8 Jan Belote, Pat Thomas, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 15 Jan Belote, Pat Thomas, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 22 Rich & Bonnie Kowalski,
Gail DeCosta, David Huff
- 29 Rich & Bonnie Kowalski,
Gail DeCosta, David Huff

Food Closet

- 3 Mary Stahl, Margaret Hall
- 5 Lyndale Baptist, Shelley Murray
- 10 Jane Tarter, Terry Liendecker
- 12 Lyndale Baptist, Jane Williams
- 17 Margaret Hall, Mary Stahl
- 19 Shelley Murray, Terry Liendecker
- 24 Jane Williams, Lyndale Baptist
- 26 ***Closed***

Southminster Presbyterian Church

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	2 12 PM Chair Yoga	3 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 10 AM: Martha Circle 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	5 Food Closet	6 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 Oyster Roast 7:30 PM: IPCN
8 Commitment Sunday 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	9 12 PM Chair Yoga	10 Food Closet 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	12 Food Closet	13 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 7:30 PM: IPCN
15 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	16 12 PM Chair Yoga	17 Food Closet 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	19 Food Closet	20 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 7:30 PM: IPCN
22 11 AM: Worship 1:00 PM Session 3 PM: IPCN	23 12 PM Chair Yoga	24 Food Closet 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 7:30 PM: IPCN
29 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	30 12 PM Chair Yoga					
		Notes				

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

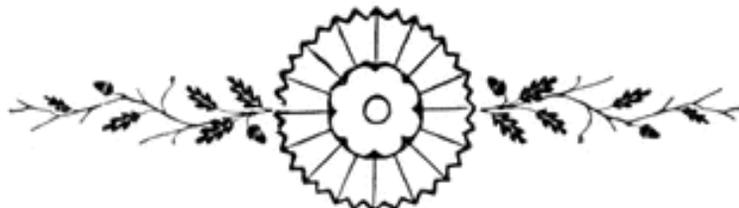
Return Service Requested

November 2020

Commitment Sunday

November 8, 2020

Join us for service at 11:00 AM



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.