



From the Pastor

While the media spends a lot of time talking about pumpkin spice lattes this time of year, for me the real taste of harvest season is something quite different. In New Mexico, the sign that fall has arrived is the tell-tale smell of green chilis being roasted on the grill. Once roasted they can be saved all winter to warm bellies in the form of homemade green chili stew, beautifully baked enchiladas, and overstuffed chili rellenos. My mouth waters just thinking of it!

Isn't it funny how deeply evocative our food memories are-- the tastes, smells, and even textures of our favorite dishes evoke memories and emotions that are so personal and unique. I know very few of you share my New Mexican roots, but perhaps you recall that southern end of summer tradition of gathering the last tomatoes from the garden and taking to a sweaty kitchen for the whole day to boil, peel, and can their delicious rich flavor. Or perhaps you eagerly await the opening of Virginia oyster season each fall, cherishing that crisp in the air for the salty, buttery feast it signals. Or maybe you have regional or cultural delicacies all your own- I would love to share a taste!

Whatever your food memories, it's safe to assume they hold a special meaning for you. Food evokes memories of family gatherings, of lessons passed down by grandmothers in the kitchen, of a kind of culinary heritage that is connected to who you are and where you come from. Particular tastes and smells can bring us back to vividly specific moments: the taste of the lasagna lovingly made by your neighbor after the birth of your first baby, the hearty warmth of the Brunswick stew given to you by your church when you were sick, the ice cream your father used to love that you eat every year in honor of his birthday. Food is important. It not only sustains our life, but it also sustains our hearts.

I think God intended for food to play such a special role in our lives- to be something that brings us both joy and comfort, that feeds our bodies and nourishes our souls. This month as we move into fall, the season of harvest and thanksgiving, we have a special opportunity to bring the joy and comfort of a good fall meal to our neighbors. Each year our partners at CCHASM put together hundreds of Thanksgiving bags for families in need. It contains all the fixings for a proper family Thanksgiving. This year we have set a goal of collecting enough food to fill 25 bags! I know you all will rise to the challenge so that we can share this gift of food and the even more precious gift of the happy memories that will be made around those tables. We will be collecting food all through the month of October, details can be found in this newsletter!

Peace,

Pastor Caitlin

Congregational Life

Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for October 23rd, 3-5PM for our Outdoor Fall Festival! This is a fun intergenerational event every year—so no matter your age, we invite you to put on your favorite costume and join us for a bit for fall fun. We will have games, pumpkin decorating, a costume contest, and lots of candy and snacks for all! RSVP here so we can plan to have enough snacks and supplies for everyone:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/176481449767>

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 7th is All Saints Sunday. On this special day each year we take a moment to pause and remember all the saints we have lost in the last year. We will have a special moment in our worship service to honor the Southminster members who have died since last November. We also want to make space to remember any friends or family you have lost this year. If you have someone whose name you would like to be read as a part of our All Saints Sunday prayer please add their name to the list in the narthex or send their name to pastor@southpreschurch.org by October 31st.

Church In The World

RISC House Meetings

At Southminster we are committed to addressing the roots of systemic poverty. Not only do we care for people in need of emergency food and housing support, but we also work together with our faith partners in RISC to call attention to the issue of affordable housing in our community. This month we will celebrate a huge victory as Richmond City leadership commits to a record-breaking investment in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which leverages money to increase the development of quality, affordable housing and homeless services in our city. None of this would have happened without the voices of people of faith persistently speaking up- together we can do powerful things!

Our Southminster RISC Team Leaders will be hosting small group house meetings this month to invite you to learn more about our justice ministry and how to be a part of this inspiring work. If you would like to attend one of the following meetings please contact the organizer.

- Jan Belote's House Meeting: Saturday, October 9th at 10AM on Zoom
- Rich Kowalski's House Meeting: Sunday, Oct 10th at 1pm at Southminster
- Shelley Murray's House Meeting: Sunday, Oct 17th at 2pm at Southminster

Stewardship Theme

On October 24th we will kick off a new Stewardship Sermon Series, “A Future with Hope.” This year we will seek hope in the story of God’s promise to bring Israel out of exile and claim that hope as our own as we long to emerge from this pandemic season of exile and separation. Watch your mail for this year’s stewardship materials along with an invitation to join the session in a season of prayer for our future as a congregation. On Sunday November 14th we will celebrate Commitment Sunday by sharing our pledges for the new year. I hope you will join us as we seek to build a more hopeful future together.

*“I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. **For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.** When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says God, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”* Jeremiah 29:10-14

Leadership & Planning

Covenant Pastor Position

Our congregation has been so blessed in recent years by great staff in both Enikö Ferenczy and Caitlyn Hathaway. The session is excited to begin our search for our next staff member. This new Pastor for Faith Formation position is a 20 hour a week covenant pastor position. It is our hope to find someone with skills in pastoral care and intergenerational ministry who can serve as a part of our staff team. If you know anyone who might be interested the full job description is posted on our website at <https://www.southpreschurch.org/job-postings.html>.

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle Updates

Southminster supports four active Presbyterian Women’s circles that traditionally meet once a month from September through June. Though most circles are still not meeting in person due to Covid-19, they hope to do so as positivity rates keep dropping. All circles are open to new members, and each one has its own particular flavor. If you would like to get involved in Presbyterian Women, we encourage you to explore the circles and reach out to the moderators with any questions.

Ruth Circle: Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM at either a member’s home or the church Conference Room. Ruth Circle hopes to begin meeting in November. Contact Jane Tarter for details.

Anna Circle: Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Debbie Greenberg’s residence. Anna Circle is actively meeting. Contact Debbie Greenberg for details.

Martha Circle: Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM at Southminster in Room 113. Martha Circle hopes to begin meeting in November. Contact Barbara Jordanger for details.

Esther Circle: Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Esther Circle has no current plans to meet.

CCHASM Thanksgiving Baskets

CCHASM has set a goal this year to provide 10,000 families with Thanksgiving baskets. To help them reach their goal, Southminster has pledged to contribute 25 baskets! Items for the Thanksgiving Baskets can be brought to the church on Sundays or any time during normal office hours. You may give individual items from the list below or put together an entire basket. You can also help by making a monetary donation to the Thanksgiving Basket fund. Food should be brought to the church no later than **Sunday, November 7th**.

Contents Of A Full Thanksgiving Basket

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 40 oz can of yams / sweet potatoes | 2 | Boxes of stove top dressing |
| 1 | 13 oz box of mashed potatoes | 2 | Cans or packages of gravy (no glass jars) |
| 1 | 14 oz can of cranberry sauce | 1 | Box of hot chocolate |
| 2 | 15 oz cans of corn | 1 | Box of tea bags |
| 2 | 15 oz cans of green vegetables | 1 | Large box or bag of cookies |

Covid Updates

After the unexpected Delta surge in August the session has been watching the Covid numbers in our region very carefully. They seem to be trending downward, which means we will soon be able to reopen indoor worship just in time for the beginning of cooler fall weather.

Starting Sunday, October 3rd we will re-open indoor worship with masks required for everyone 2 and older. The nursery will also be reopened with our nursery staff masked and fully vaccinated for children under 1st grade. The live stream will continue to be an option for those who prefer to watch from home.

This shift will also mean that October 3rd will be our last outdoor worship for the season. I am grateful to all our volunteers who made this extended season of outdoor worship possible and to all of those who have faithfully attended and enjoyed worshiping in God's creation together!

Finally, this shift back to indoor activities will allow our chair yoga class to resume, as well as give Sunday School classes the option to move inside. Again, all indoor activities will continue to require masks according to CDC guidelines. Let's continue to be vigilant as we move into the fall and winter so that we can enjoy the pleasure of worshiping together in person!

Session Highlights

- If Covid-19 numbers remain good, Southminster will resume in-person worship on October 3rd
- Elected Elders Anne Smith and Tracey Williams to attend virtual Presbytery meeting on October 16th
- Donation was approved to Rise Against Hunger since we will not be having an in-person event in October
- Approved moving forward with Covenant Pastor search

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.

Flu Shot Clinic

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 6th from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM for the Flu Shot Clinic at Southminster. Our local Rite Aid store pharmacist will be on site to administer vaccines for influenza and pneumonia. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office at 804-276-1749 or office@southpreschurch so that we know roughly how many people to expect. Walk-ins are also welcome.

We will ask that you wear a mask indoors during your visit and follow the volunteers' directions for entering and exiting the church. For more information, please contact Laura Pearson at 804-387-3913.

Southminster Notes

To our entire Southminster Family,

Please accept our sincere thanks for the many kindnesses extended to our family at the time of our dear mother's passing. We will never forget the beautiful altar flowers and those who assisted Rev. Deyerle to be sure all the details were covered.

We are extremely grateful for all of the beautiful cards sent to our home, your kind calls, your presence at the visitation and/or service, and especially your prayers during this difficult time.

In Christ's Love,

The Family of Carolyn Foster Griles

Southminster,

Thank you is not nearly enough to say how much we appreciate all you have done to support Emily and all of our family these last few weeks. We are grateful for all of the prayers, calls, and notes. Emily is doing well. She is staying with us for a while so she needs to stay in your prayers as she works through all of this.

Our church family means a lot to us all of the time, but when the going gets tough you really realize how their support is invaluable.

Thank you again,

Jennifer, Tim, and Emily

October Birthdays

- 2 Joey Williams
- 3 Matt Briggs, Michelle Paulson
- 4 Winki Lampe
- 6 Audrey Pearson
- 7 Cathy Kirtley
- 9 Amy Pond
- 12 Macy Bowser
- 13 Marley McDonald
- 15 Jan Belote, Frank Willis
- 16 David Campbell
- 20 David Kirtley
- 21 Jerry Davis, Mike Ferguson, Sarah Hollingsworth
- 23 Cathy Manke
- 24 Dorothy Dixon
- 26 Samantha Waldron
- 28 David Williams

October Anniversaries

- 6 Gary & Melanie Miller (37)
- 6 Lee & Natalie Spillman (14)
- 14 Chuck & Debbie Greenberg (49)
- 15 Larry & Bernie Chamberlain (44)

October Schedules

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

Communion Team

October 3: Team 2: 11 AM, tent. Chapel (Unit)

Elder Greeters

- 3 Tracey Williams
- 10 Rich Kowalski
- 17 Anne Smith
- 24 Eddie Pearson
- 31 Mary MacKenzie Swenck

Ushers

- 3 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,
Jerry & Cheriene McCall
- 10 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams,
Pat & Rick Abbott
- 17 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams,
Pat & Rick Abbott
- 24 Jan Belote, Moses Adiele, Margaret & Jim Hall
- 31 Jan Belote, Moses Adiele, Margaret & Jim Hall

Visitation Team

- 17 Kathy Liesfeld
- 24 Bonnie & Rich Kowalski
- 31 Jan Belote

Food Closet

- 5 Mary Stahl, Margaret Hall
- 7 Lyndale Baptist, TBD
- 12 Melba Jolly, Lyndale Baptist
- 14 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 19 Shelley Murray, Lyndale Baptist
- 21 Lyndale Baptist, Jane Tarter
- 26 Melba Jolly, TBD
- 28 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski

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

Southminster Presbyterian Church

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	4 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	5 Food Closet 7 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM: Flu Shot Clinic 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	7 Food Closet 6 PM: Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	8 7:30 PM: IPCN	9 10 AM: RISC House Meeting (online) 7:30 PM: IPCN
10 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: RISC House Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	11 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	12 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	13 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	14 Food Closet	15 7:30 PM: IPCN	16 12 PM: POJ Meeting 7:30 PM: IPCN
17 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 2 PM: RISC House Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	18 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	19 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	20 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	21 Food Closet 10 AM: Triad Meeting 3 PM: LVS Cooking	22 7:30 PM: IPCN	23 3 PM: Fall Festival 7:30 PM: IPCN
24 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12:30 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	25 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	27 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	28 Food Closet	29 7:30 PM: IPCN	30 7:30 PM: IPCN
31 Halloween 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	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

October 2021

Join us for Fall Festival
Saturday, October 23rd
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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.