



From the Pastor

Hello Southminster

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred (brothers and sisters) live together in unity”
(Psalm 133:1)

Fat chance!

How good and pleasant...” sounds innocuous enough. Unity is a nice thing, though not a necessary thing. Is that the sense here? Not really. Though “pleasant” sounds merely aesthetic, the word “good” is the Hebrew word toy, which is used again and again in Genesis 1. “And God saw what he had made, and it was good.” It suggests perfection, probably of a moral sort. Unity not only makes the world a lovelier place, but it also enables the world to regain the goodness for which God created it. Unity is essential to God’s original design for the world.

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers....” Is this a reference to unity in our nuclear families? It is more likely that Psalm 133 is addressed to the Family of God on pilgrimage from all over the Promised Land, headed up to Jerusalem to worship in the Temple where they came into the presence of God. It’s not about family life, first of all, but about pilgrimage and worship and being in the presence of God as the family that was chosen out of all the nations on earth.

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers (all the tribes, all the combatants) live together in unity.”

What constitutes unity? Does it mean uniformity, where everyone thinks exactly the same on every issue? Or does it mean harmony, where people get along even though they have different ideas? Is everyone in the church supposed to think the same ideas, or are we supposed to be united in faith, hope, and love. Is this a call to have one voice, or a call to be a choir singing different parts in harmony?

The latter seems most feasible and also more biblical. Think of Paul’s insistence that the church is the Body of Christ with many members, a multiplicity of gifts, a variety of ministries, a mystical union composed of male and female, rich and poor, black and white, Jew and Gentile, and every other type of difference you can imagine. That such a diverse people could be united is the miracle of the church.

That doesn’t mean, of course, that our unity can save the world. Only Christ can do that. And only Christ can unite the church. Only through his grace and Holy Spirit can we overcome the divisions produced in the Body of Christ by sin, Satan and a splintered humanity. But we must try. No, we must trust the Word of the Lord here in Psalm 133

On Sunday October 1 we shall celebrate World Community Sunday with our brothers and sisters of IPCN - the congregation worshipping in our basement – every Sunday afternoon. We and they set aside ourselves for the sake of the Body of Christ.

“How good and pleasant,” indeed.

Rev. Jock O’Connell

Halloween Egg Hunt

On Sunday, October 29th, Southminster will host a Halloween Egg Hunt for the young (and young at heart). Children are invited wear their Sunday-best Halloween costumes to worship. Following the service we will hunt for candy-filled eggs in and around the building. Please invite your family and friends to join the fun!

Anyone wishing to donate candy for this event, please put it in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, or you would like to help out, please contact Laura Pearson.

Southminster Children's Choir

Calling all children: Here is a wonderful opportunity to sing! Our own choir director, Kimberly Ryan, will be offering Children's Choir practice this fall.

The Children's Choir will meet for four rehearsals, after worship on November 5th, November 12th, December, 3rd, and December 10th. Each rehearsal should take only 15 – 20 minutes. The children will learn one Christmas song that will be sung along with the Adult Choir during their performances on December 17th and 24th. You do not need prior experience and all voices no matter how small are welcome. For more information, please contact Kimberly Ryan.

Church In The World**Rise Against Hunger Event
Sunday, October 15**

Here are the details you've been waiting for! We hope you have this date already on your calendar! Come help us do God's work to feed the hungry around the world! We would love to duplicate last year's turnout! Our Sunday worship of God for **October 15** will include this energizing, inspiring experience to provide meals that will support hunger efforts around the globe!

Date: Sunday, October 15

10:30 AM	Breakfast snacks in the narthex
11:00 AM	Brief service in the sanctuary
11:15 AM	Fellowship Hall for the work
1:00 PM	Clean up

What is the work?

We will have a variety of stations for multiple jobs: filling bags with prepared dried foods (soy, veggies, rice, vitamins); weighing and sealing the bags, boxing up the bags. We also need 'runners' (THINK KIDS!) to take the products from one station to another! Some tasks are for those who can stand; others are suitable for those who need to sit. There is a job for just about everyone!

Continued on page 5

Stewardship Awareness

Often, we first think of stewardship as giving money. That’s understandable. It’s an essential aspect of being committed Christians. However, we are also called to be wise stewards of all we receive from God. That includes our time, abilities and freedom to make choices. For years a few members have visited, encouraged and helped other members that could not regularly come to church. That is certainly a great example of one of the “other” forms of stewardship.

More recently this visitation ministry has been expanded, opened to all members and organized into our present Care Team. It has been much appreciated by those served. Karen Stafford is the team leader and several others are dedicated participants on the Team. We are grateful to Karen and to all the team members for your separate contributions. Thank You!

Leadership & Planning

Interim Pastor & Pastor Search Update

We are pleased to announce that the Committee on Ministry has approved Rev. Jock O’Connell’s contract to be Southminster’s Interim Pastor for another year.

During the coming year, our primary focus will be to establish a Pastor Nominating Committee to facilitate the search for a permanent full-time pastor. This committee will consist of both elders and non-elders alike and will be guided by Jock as Southminster navigates the pastor search process.

Facilities

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who braved the tropical storm on Saturday, September 23rd and came out for the Southminster Work Day.

Aside from custodial work, the upkeep of Southminster relies solely on our volunteers, and we could not be more grateful to have such a willing and capable crew. Whether you are an active member of the Facilities Committee or you volunteer once a year on a Work Day, your contribution to our church is invaluable. We couldn’t do it without you.

Presbyterian Women

Ruth Circle
October 3rd at 2:00 PM
Conference Room

Martha Circle
October 4th at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Anna Circle
October 9th at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

Beginning in November, Anna Circle meetings will move to the first Monday of the month

CCHASM Thanksgiving Baskets

Southminster is proud to support the CCHASM Thanksgiving Basket program which provides families in need with a full holiday meal. 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 5th**.

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 |

The Manchester Concert Series: The Common Folk Trio

The Manchester Concert Series is pleased to announce an addition to its 2023-2024 line-up. On Saturday, November 4th at 4:00 PM we will welcome The Common Folk Trio to our Sanctuary.

According to the members of the trio, "The Common Folk Trio engages the audience with their vocals and adept guitar, banjo, and mandolin renditions of the popular folk music of the 1960's combined with more contemporary songs that adapt well to this styling. Playing songs made popular by The Kingston Trio, Woody Guthrie, Peter, Paul & Mary, and Jimmy Buffet, the Common Folk Trio provides insightful introductions to the songs, blending historical perspectives with humorous anecdotes that entertain as well as inform."

The doors will open at 3:30 PM. The suggested donation for admission is \$10.00 per attendee in support of the performers, along with one non-perishable food item for the Food Closet. This event is open to the community, so please invite your family and friends.

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.

Continued from page 2

How do I sign up? Participants must register prior to the event! Registration begins **September 17** using **one** of two options:

1. There will be a sign up table in the narthex beginning on Sunday, September 17.
2. There is a link on the Southminster website where you can register:

[Southminster Presbyterian - Home \(southpreschurch.org\)](http://southpreschurch.org)

How can I support this program if I am unable to attend?

Southminster has fully funded this project through a generous anonymous donation. If you are led to donate to the Rise Against Hunger organization separately, you may use the online registration link (above). Learn more about Rise Against Hunger here: [Home - Rise Against Hunger](#)

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Family,

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for the very generous scholarship given to me by Southminster Presbyterian Church. This money goes a long way in helping me continue my studies at Randolph-Macon College! Using this scholarship money, I am able to keep moving forward with my academic career. I really appreciate all you have done for me. Thank you so much, Southminster family!

With Love,
Jacob Wetzel

Thank you to all my good friends who sent lovely cards, encouraging phone calls, and made visits to cheer me after my “happening” in late July. I consider myself very fortunate to have no debilitating aftereffects. The worst of it all is no driving for six months, so if any of you find yourselves driving down Hull Street anywhere near Woodlake, please come and see me. You can be assuring of a warm welcome and at least a cup of tea. With love to you all,

Eileen Robison

Time sometimes feels like it moves so slowly, but we see it passes very quickly. . .and we ask ourselves where it has gone.

Following four years of treatment for stage IV cancer, my daughter, Elizabeth, has passed in a transition that finds her free of cancer and free from pain.

I can never thank the congregation enough for the sincere prayers, kind words of comfort, and supportive cards shared with our family. Each day we recall moments of joy as well as moments of sadness. We can now rest in the knowledge that she is at peace.

Most sincerely, and with love and blessings to the Southminster congregation,

Candace Young

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

October Birthdays

- 2 Joey Williams
- 3 Matt Briggs, Michelle Paulson
- 4 Winki Lampe
- 6 Audrey Pearson
- 7 Cathy Kirtley
- 12 Macy Bowser
- 13 Marley McDonald
- 15 Jan Belote, Frank Willis
- 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 (39)
- 6 Lee & Natalie Spillman (16)
- 14 Chuck & Debbie Greenberg (51)
- 15 Larry & Bernie Chamberlain (46)

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

Directory Updates

Freya Harper
Preferred Phone
Cell: 804-239-0929

October Schedules

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

Communion Team

October 1st: Team 1

Elder Greeters

- 1 Jennifer Weddle
- 8 Mary Stahl
- 15 Clay Spillman
- 22 Jerry Davis
- 29 Curtis Radt

Ushers

- 1 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,
Jerry & Cheriene McCall
- 8 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Pat & Rick Abbott
- 15 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Pat & Rick Abbott
- 22 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall, David Huff
- 29 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall, David Huff

Food Closet

- 3 Bonnie Kowalski, Ann Wilkins
- 5 Frank Grier, Cheriene McCall
- 10 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 12 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 17 Ann Potts, Rose Spradin
- 19 Melba Jolly, Shelley Murray
- 24 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 26 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 31 Ann Wilkins, Rose Spradin

Children's Sunday School

- 1 Abram's Call – Melanie Miller
- 8 Abraham & Sarah's Visitors – Melanie Miller
- 15 Isaac's Blessing – Gail DeCosta
- 22 Free From Slavery – Gail DeCosta
- 29 The Red Sea – Laura Pearson

Southminster Presbyterian Church

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	2 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7 PM: RISC House Mtg. 7:30 PM: IPCN	3 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 10 AM: Martha Circle 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	5 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	6 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 7:30 PM: IPCN
8 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	9 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7:30 PM: IPCN	10 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	12 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	13 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 5 PM: Set Up for RAH 7:30 PM: IPCN
15 Rise Against Hunger 10:30 AM: Snacks 11 AM: Brief Service 11:15 AM: Meal Packing Event 3 PM: IPCN	16 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	17 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	19 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 3 PM: LVS Cooking	20 6 PM: Girl Scouts Sleepover 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 (8 AM: Girl Scouts Out) 7:30 PM: IPCN
22 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	23 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	24 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	26 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	27 7:30 PM: IPCN	28 Men's Oyster Roast 7:30 PM: IPCN
29 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Halloween Egg Hunt 3 PM: IPCN	30 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	31 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 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 2023

Sunday, October 15th

10:30 AM



**Join us in the
Fellowship Hall for our
meal packing event.**

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.