



From the Pastor

Friends,

As fall approaches we are not where I had hoped we would be. I have spent the morning reading articles about hospitals filling up beyond capacity, booster vaccines for the most vulnerable, and the shortage of nurses and health care workers to tend to the sick. Closer to home I have also read a note from my children's own daycare announcing that they are shutting down for the rest of the week due to the spread of Covid, and received an email asking for prayers for a friend in the ICU with Covid.

In the midst of all this, I find encouragement in all of you. Our session met last week to make decisions and adjustments to our fall plans to keep everyone as safe as possible. You will find details of those decisions in this newsletter. No one relishes having to make these calls, yet our elders continue to be wise, compassionate, and unified in their decision making. I hope that you will take a moment to thank your leaders for this work. I hope also that you will continue to be flexible as we adapt to the quickly changing landscape.

In the midst of all this, we are called to pray for one another. Especially if your life seems relatively untouched at the moment, I hope you will see that as an opportunity to pray for those who are still running the race- our nurses, teachers, and so many other front line workers. So, for that purpose I offer you this beautiful prayer for the waning days of summer calling upon God's love to renew even the "most exhausted of souls."

Peace,

Pastor Caitlin

Prayer for Summer Sabbath, by Teri McDowell Ott

God of mercy, our need is great. The pandemic has left us tired, anxious and uncertain. We have stretched beyond our limits and numbed ourselves to our pain. We have accepted getting by as good enough.

You alone know our needs, Holy God, that which weighs heavy on our shoulders, responsibilities that are unrelenting, duties that are exhausting. There are days when the burdens we carry overwhelm us, days when we cannot see ourselves free.

And yet, the sky is full of your promise—

the rainbow appears at the end of the storm,
the fireflies dance when the sun goes down,
the green leaves unfurl and reach for rain.

Turn our eyes, Holy God, to these signs of life and hope. Open us to the natural treasures of your uncompromising presence. Enlighten us to your glory as we pause to appreciate the summer days. Like a breeze cooling us in the hot humid air, your love embraces and satisfies that loneliest, most exhausted of souls. May our spirits know this summer sabbath, so we can know your peace.

Amen.

Covid Updates

First, a huge thank you to all you for your faithfulness and patience in masking, distancing, and getting vaccinated over the past year! You all have consistently put the health and safety of your friends and neighbors first in such a Christlike way. All of us hoped that by this time of the year we would be eagerly lifting some of our remaining precautions. But unfortunately, the rise of the Delta variant with its increased contagion among vaccinated people has delayed that hope.

The session met on August 15th and voted to affirm our automatic closure policy based on local Covid testing rates. We passed that threshold on Thursday August 19th, marking the highest numbers we have seen since February. So, starting on Sunday August 29th all activities will be held either online or outdoors. We will offer two Sunday morning options, a 9am in-person worship service in the outdoor chapel, and a 11am live-streamed worship service in the sanctuary. Outdoor and online Sunday School classes will be available starting on Rally Day. Masks are required at all time inside the church building, following CDC guidelines. Masks are requested outdoors as we move in and out of the worship space but may be removed while seated at a safe distance. People who are not vaccinated or are working with unvaccinated children need to be masked at all times.

As frustrating as it is to feel like we are going backwards, we continue to keep our most vulnerable members in mind and are committed to making worship accessible to all.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School year will begin on Rally Day, September 12th!

Adults will have two classes to choose from that will meet following the 9AM outdoor service. The Contemporary Issues Class will continue meeting on Zoom, contact Joyce Lapsley at jhlwords@comcast.net for more information. The Spiritual Life Class will meet outdoors, weather permitting, contact Jennifer Weddle at jweddle726@comcast.net for more information.

Children's Sunday School will be held outdoors following the 9 AM service and will include music time with Miss Kimberly! Parents will receive a letter in the mail with details in the coming weeks!

Sanctuary & Bell Choir

The Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsals on September 1st, 2021! Bell choir is from 6pm-7pm, and Sanctuary choir is from 7:15pm-8:30pm. We will wear masks and stay socially distant during rehearsals. On Sunday mornings, we will gather in the sanctuary at 9:30am for touch-up rehearsals, and be a part of the livestreamed service at 11am.

We are seeking new members for both groups, and no experience is required. Sanctuary Choir will sing weekly, and bell choir will perform monthly. Come and join with us in fellowship and music-making together! Email Kimberly for more detailed information. keliseryan@gmail.com

Online Giving

If we have learned anything from the challenges of the past year and a half it is that technology can be a huge asset for spreading the gospel! From live-streaming worship to zoom Sunday School, virtual church is here to stay.

Another underappreciated technological tool is the ability to give to your church online. Many of you have taken the leap and set up your offering to Southminster as an automatic bill payment with your bank. This is a great tool and has the advantage of no associated transaction fees. Many others have begun using our safe and secure online giving portal, where you can make a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation. Go to www.southpreschurch.org/giving to learn more!

Leadership & Planning

New Intern – Brett Eisenhauer

Hello everyone! My name is Brett Eisenhauer and I am so excited to be your intern this year. I'm starting my final year (3rd) of seminary at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Before attending seminary I went to Murray State University and studied nonprofit leadership studies and organizational communication. I also had the privilege to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Washington, DC. When I'm not doing school work you can find me in a local coffeeshop, exploring RVA, gardening, hiking, or reading. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 26th

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 26th immediately following worship for the purpose of electing elders for the class of 2024. The nominating committee will be nominating **Clay Spillman, Robin Lapsley, Jennifer Weddle, and Mary Stahl**. This meeting will be held both in-person, for those joining us for worship in the sanctuary, and on Zoom, for those joining from home via phone or computer.

Please save the Zoom link and phone number below for this special meeting. It will also be shared via the weekly email leading up to the meeting and in the live-stream of worship on the 26th. Please contact the church office if you would like special coaching in order to participate in the zoom meeting.

Topic: Congregational Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Elders for the Class of 2024

Time: Sep 26, 2021 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306087245?pwd=cTF6VTN0Qzhqditi2VTBUendGRld2Zz09>

Call: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 823 0608 7245

Passcode: 962912

Weather Policy for Outdoor Worship

Due to covid concerns and rising case numbers we will plan to extend our outdoor worship season for as long as possible! We have a beautiful, shaded outdoor space that is comfortable even on hot days. In the case of rain we will follow one simple rule of thumb: If you have to turn on your windshield wipers on your way to church...outdoor worship is canceled. See you outside!

Southminster Food Closet

Southminster's Food Closet is one of our congregation's oldest and most active mission and outreach programs, having been in consistent operation since the mid-1980s. In partnership with CCHASM (Chesterfield & Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry) we provide a week's worth of groceries for up to eight families per week, effectively serving hundreds of families in need every year.

This mission would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers, and we are always happy and eager to welcome new people to the team. If you have thought about volunteering but are hesitant, consider:

1. The volunteer schedule is very flexible
2. Volunteers are never asked to vet clients (this is handled by CCHASM)
3. You will always work with a partner

For more information about volunteering, contact Shelley Murray at (804) 897-3571 or shelmurr@hotmail.com.

Of course, volunteering isn't the only way to help the Food Closet. Donations of non-perishable food items and personal care items can be dropped off at the church anytime during our regular office hours. You can also donate to the Food Closet Fund which allows our volunteers to shop and fill in gaps in our supplies. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to keep the Food Closet going!

Session Highlights

- Updated COVID policies due to current increase of covid activity and changing CDC guidelines. All activities will be moved online or outdoors until case rates fall below 10% positivity. Masks will be required at all times inside the building.
- Moved membership of Marty and Dixie Kovacs to Myrtle Beach Presbyterian Church.
- A called Congregational Meeting is scheduled for September 26th, 2021 to present the 2024 slate of elder nominees: Clay Spillman, Robin Lapsley, Jennifer Weddle, and Mary Stahl (2 year term).

RISC Update

Our Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Community (RISC) Justice Ministry is kicking off this month! Our Team Leaders, Shelley Murray, Jan Belote, and Rich Kowalski will be hosting house meetings to hear about the issues are weighing on your hearts and get inspired to do some justice this year! Past RISC participants should expect to hear from our Team Leaders with an invitation to one of the house meetings. If you are interested and would like to join please contact Jan Belote at flysis44@verizon.net, there will be childcare and virtual meeting options available. In the meantime, here are two quick updates on our work in 2021!

Affordable Housing- Thanks to the amazing persistence of RISC in the face of a lot of adversity, the city council will be voting in the next few weeks to increase the amount of funding to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) this year from \$3 million dollars to \$10 million dollars. We did it! These funds go to support homeless services and development of low-income housing in the Richmond area. This win, combined with our victory in early 2021 that secured a future dedicated stream of funding for the AHTF, should keep the funding level at \$10 million going forward. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board is eager to get to work and put us on a much better track to addressing housing insecurity in the Richmond metro area.

Gun Violence- Our Gun Violence team has done a huge amount of research in the past two years since voting to commit to this issue. We have met repeatedly with the Police Chief to discuss proven, data driven strategies to support police and communities in the fight to reduce violence, but he has yet to take action. This issue is more urgent than ever as Richmond is seeing an alarming increase in violent crime. Every day we wait to implement proven strategies means more lives lost in our city.

Directory Updates

Marty & Dixie Kovacs
1572 Heathmuir Drive
Surfside Beach, SC 29575
Marty's Cell: 804-839-7292
Dixie's Cell: 804-627-3753

Samantha & Gus Waldron
4520 Marcella Lane
Quinton, VA 23141
804-467-1630

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Family,

Thank you so much for the scholarship you have given me for the 2021-22 school year. I'm so excited to return to Longwood this fall to see its beautiful campus and continue my education. I was great to see everyone this summer.

Love,
Joey Williams

Dear Southminster Church Family,

I wanted to write this note to express my thanks and gratitude for your very generous scholarship. The money will help pay a good portion of my second year at Randolph Macon College. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship opportunity that will help me continue my academic endeavors. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Jacob Wetzel

September Birthdays

- 2 Carson Crenshaw
- 3 Ryan Endries, Betty Smith
- 6 Lynda Reed
- 11 Gene Rhodes
- 12 Tom Murray
- 14 Matt Davis
- 18 Gail DeCosta
- 19 Alberta Lindsey
- 22 Virginia Wagstaff
- 23 Richard Jordanger, Judy Lee
- 24 Mike Bowser
- 25 Rich Kowalski, Casey Brammer
- 28 Phillippa Solaimani, Alyssa Krigelman
- 30 Mary Ann Hepp, David Knight, Norma Poole

September Anniversaries

- 5 Mark & Pattie Pinchbeck (23)
- 6 David & Kerry Knight (18)
- 8 Don & Shirley Reed (65)
- 10 Robin & Joyce Lapsley (38)
- 11 Jerry & Aileen Davis (50)
- 12 Jim & Ada Park (62)
- 13 David & Mary Stahl (34)
- 15 Rich & Bonnie Kowalski (54)
- 17 Kathy Liesfeld & Ken Irby (3)
- 20 Matt & Ginny Ball (13)
- 20 Jerry & Cheriene McCall (46)
- 23 Rick & Ann Schaffer (32)

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

September Schedules

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

Communion Team

September 5: Team 1: Chapel & 11 AM (Unit)

Elder Greeters

- 5 Terry Liendecker
- 12 Jan Belote
- 19 Matt Briggs
- 26 Frank Grier

Visitation Team

- 12 Jan Belote
- 26 Karen Stafford

Food Closet

- 2 Lyndale Baptist, Terry Liendecker
- 7 Melba Jolly, Margaret Hall
- 9 Edna Warncke, Jane Tarter
- 14 Lyndale Baptist, Shelley Murray
- 16 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 21 Terry Liendecker, Shelley Murray
- 23 Jane Tarter, Margaret Hall
- 28 Lyndale Baptist, Shelley Murray
- 30 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski

Southminster Presbyterian Church

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal		7:30 PM: IPCN	7:30 PM: IPCN
5 Communion 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 11 AM: Worship Online 3 PM: IPCN	6 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 Food Closet 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 Food Closet 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	9 Food Closet	10 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN
12 Rally Day 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship Online 3 PM: IPCN	13 Food Closet 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 Food Closet 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	16 Food Closet	17 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 Food Closet 8 AM: Fall Work Day 7:30 PM: IPCN
19 Food Closet 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship Online 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	20 Food Closet 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 Food Closet 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	23 Food Closet	24 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 Food Closet 4 PM: IPCN Wedding 7:30 PM: IPCN
26 Food Closet 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship Online 12 PM: Congregational Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	27 Food Closet 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	28 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 Food Closet 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	30 Food Closet		
Notes						
Disclaimer: Due to the evolving Covid-19 situation items on the calendar may be subject to change.						

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

September 2021

Rally Day

Sunday, September 12th

**9 AM Outdoor Worship
In-Person**

11:00 AM Worship Online



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.