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***From the Pastor***

We are in the same boat....

One of the tragedies of the church is that we conceal from each other the very needs and problems which must be expressed if we are to help each other.

It is tragic if we believe that to minister necessitates our having “arrived spiritually – that we have to be “victorious” Christians.

None of us have arrived....none...neither you nor me.

All of us are subject to loneliness, to frustration, to failures, to despair. These, as well as the peace and joy of the Gospel, are our lot. When we struggle, make an effort, to hide humanness from each other, we build walls instead of bridges. We cut ourselves off from one another, hiding behind masks. When we hide from our brothers and sisters, we can only fear them, not love them. We can never invite them to share our lives, or expect to share theirs. Throw such people together in a group and the strain of hiding themselves drives them apart. They cannot be drawn together.

God, through the words of Paul, encourages the Corinthians to share their inner selves. He shares himself too:

*<sup>8</sup> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead (II Corinthians 1:8-9)*

Paul wrote this letter to a church in which his apostolate was being challenged. Even so he did not hesitate to reveal his true self. Only as he met these people and shared his own inadequacies, could he lead them to discover the adequacy of God.

If we mutually want to care for each other, we in the church must also be willing to expose our real selves. To admit our humanness and our need, to receive encouragement from others who share our common lot, and to encourage them in turn.

We must learn to accept and love imperfect people in the church, including ourselves.

We are in the same boat.

***Rev. Jock O’Connell***

### **Rally Day**

Rally Day at Southminster Presbyterian Church will kick off on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM with a special Heroes Worship Service. Our youngest members who participated in our Heroes of the Bible program during Bible Fun Week will be redonning their superhero capes and helping to lead our worship service. We invite you all to come out and see what they learned over the summer. After worship we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch. Southminster will provide the main course. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### **Childrens' Sunday School ~ "The Gathering"**

Beginning Sept. 17, 2023 the children's Sunday School program "The Gathering" will resume. Children begin this program in the sanctuary at 11:00 AM and participate in the Worship Service with their families. They are then excused to attend a children's education program prior to the beginning of the sermon. The children remain in the Sunday School Room designated as The Gathering and can be picked up at the end of the Worship Service. We promise to make this time valuable as we focus on beloved Bible stories. We will also include some memory work such as the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology, making their worship experience more powerful. Don't worry if you miss a Sunday. We will send the lessons for the week to your child so that they can be reviewed at home.

If you have any questions or are available to help us during The Gathering, please contact me or any of the Sunday School teachers. This year we are blessed to have Melanie Miller, Gail DeCosta, Joyce Grier, Lynn Hodges and myself to lead this program. Special thanks to Joey Williams who will assist.

*Laura Pearson*

### **Adult Sunday School ~ Contemporary Issues Discussion Group**

This lively discussion group explores current events, social justice and health issues, books, and many other topics of interest and focuses on how our faith guides our responses to these issues. From time to time, we have had speakers who covered topics that ranged from Judaism to the crisis in Haiti to solar energy to gerrymandering to medicine.

The Contemporary Issues class meets on Zoom on Sundays from 9:45 AM – 10:30 AM. Plans to return to meeting in the church library in-person, while continuing the virtual connection, are in the works.

*Joyce Lapsley*

### **Adult Sunday School ~ Christian Life**

We will begin the year with discussion of the afterlife. Where do we go from here? We will discuss how this unknown is defined by our faith, other religious, literature, movies, and mythology. This will be fun discussion about the unknown. Come be surprised about how all of these different areas try to define the unknown and how similar we all are.

The Christian Life class meets in the Conference Room on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

*Jennifer Weddle*

## Rise Against Hunger Event

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

We are very excited to, once again, host our meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger. If you've participated in this before, you are already excited; if this will be your first time, you will not be disappointed. This event has a global reach to God's people who are experiencing hunger, either from a natural disaster, emergency or ongoing poverty.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will begin our morning at 10:30 with breakfast snacks. At 11:00 AM we will gather for a brief service in the sanctuary and continue our worship of God in the Fellowship Hall with the packing of the food bags. We should finish up around 1:00 PM.

Sign ups will begin in mid-September.

## *Leadership & Planning*

### Congregational Meeting ~ September 24th

The 2023 Southminster Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate **Rick Abbott, David Flynt, and Freya Harper** as the Elder Class of 2026. Please join us for the called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> after worship to elect the new class.

We will celebrate the ordination and installation of the new elders on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank the Nominating Committee for all of their hard work in ensuring that Southminster's Session elders represent the integrity and energy needed to help set the church's vision, determine its direction, and design the ministries and mission initiatives of the church over the next few years. A big thank you to Jennifer Weddle (moderator), Susan Edwards, Kitty Bice, Joey Williams, and Karen Stafford.

## *Facilities*

### Fall Work Day

The Facilities Committee will host a Fall Work Day on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. We need volunteers to help us get the church tidied up for fall. Lunch will be served!

In addition to our regular list, we hope to wax floors, clean grass out of the cracks in the parking lot, and possibly do some painting. If anyone can bring painting gear, a power washer, or a commercial mop and bucket, it would be very helpful. Please reach out to Brown Pearson if you have any questions.

### Presbyterian Women

#### **Ruth Circle**

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

#### **Anna Circle**

September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
Debbie Greenberg's residence

#### **Martha Circle**

September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room

### **Southminster Choir News**

The Southminster Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are moving to a new night! Beginning on September 5<sup>th</sup> the choir will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM in the choir room. If you've wanted to explore singing in the choir, but it hasn't worked in your schedule before, now is your chance to try it out. New members are always welcome.

The Bell Choir will be on an extended vacation, starting up again the first week of January in preparation for Easter Sunday in March. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like to participate in either the Sanctuary or Bell Choir, please reach out to our Music Director, Kimberly Ryan.

### **The Manchester Concert Series Presents *Some Assembly Required***

Last year members of Southminster launched a new endeavor. The Manchester Concert series was designed to allow Southminster to reach out to our community through music, inviting different groups to put on concerts in the Sanctuary. After a successful inaugural year and three concerts, we are carrying the Manchester Concert Series on into 2023-2024!

The first concert of the 2023-24 Manchester Concert Series will be held on Saturday, September 2nd at 4:00 PM (doors open at 3:30 PM) in the Southminster Sanctuary. Please join us as we welcome *Some Assembly Required*.

*Some Assembly Required* has developed a unique sound of traditional and contemporary bluegrass with ballads, blues, country and gospel. The band formed in 2006 and has had to require some assembly often. A complete resume would be impossible but be sure there are many years of musical experience.

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.

### **Martha Circle**

Martha Circle meets every first Wednesday of the month September through May, at 10AM in the conference room. We're a small but caring group and would welcome anyone who wishes to join us. We're studying the Horizons Bible study. If you would like a copy of the study book, please contact Jan Belote, 804-745-0162.

### **Session Highlights**

- The new contract for interim pastor Jock O'Connell was reviewed and accepted.
- The lay Care Group, headed up by Karen Stafford and Tracey Williams will be formally commissioned to assist Rev. O'Connell with pastoral care.
- The Session was asked to consider names for the Pastor Nominating Committee to discuss at the next meeting.

## Bible Fun Week Report

Is that a bird or a plane? No. It's our own little heroes flying around the church with capes that they made! This year's Bible Fun Week theme "Heroes of the Bible" did not disappoint. Our Bible Fun Week Program was held July 24 – 28, from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. We were excited to have 18 children participate. The halls of the church were filled with singing and laughter. The children learned about God's Heroes through song, stories, crafts and games .

I would like to recognize our wonderful Bible Fun Week volunteers: Riki Stone, Debbie & Clay Spillman, Madeline Spillman, Marit Smith, Gary & Anne Smith, Melanie Miller, Judy Lee, Audrey Pearson, Mary MacKenzie Swenck, Caroline Solaimani, Lynn Hodges, Susan Pharr, Mitchel Kirtley, Joey Williams, Ana Hobson, Luke Pearson and Debbie Greenberg. Be on the lookout for our Heroes Worship Service on Rally Day, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM to see our young superheroes in action. See you next summer!

*Laura Pearson  
Bible Fun Week Director*

### Directory Updates

**Matt Davis**  
6828 Welara Run  
Moseley, VA 23120

**Winki Lampe**  
Watercrest Senior Living  
5250 Grandin Avenue  
Apt. 323  
Moseley, VA 23120

**Pat Stells**  
98 Genevieve  
Irvington, VA 22480

### Southminster Notes

*Dear Southminster Presbyterian Church,*

*Our Southminster Church family was incredible with their support and love during Brandon's memorial service and reception. Thank you for the volunteers who helped with planning and implementing, which allowed the day to go so smoothly.*

*In addition, we appreciate the beautiful arrangement of flowers and the Careful-Chefs meal. Your prayers and support have sustained us and we feel grateful to have you in our lives.*

*With Love,  
Ron & Susan Witcher, Ryan Witcher, Ron & Reiko*

*Thank you to all those who volunteered during Bible Fun Week: Riki Stone, Clay and Debbie Spillman, Mary Mackenzie Swenck, Caroline Solaimani, Judy Lee, Melanie Miller, Lynn Hodges, Anne and Gary Smith, Susan Pharr, Marit Smith, Lynn Hodges, Mitchel Kirtley, Joey Williams, Ana Hobson, Audrey Pearson, Debbie Greenberg and Youth: Luke Pearson and Madeline Spillman. Also thanks to Karen Stafford for all the artwork!*

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

## ***September Birthdays***

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

## ***September Anniversaries***

- 5 Mark & Pattie Pinchbeck (25)
- 6 David & Kerry Knight (20)
- 8 Don & Shirley Reed (67)
- 10 Robin & Joyce Lapsley (40)
- 11 Jerry & Aileen Davis (52)
- 13 David & Mary Stahl (37)
- 15 Rich & Bonnie Kowalski (56)
- 17 Kathy Liesfeld & Ken Irby (5)
- 20 Matt & Ginny Ball (15)
- 20 Jerry & Cheriene McCall (48)
- 23 Rick & Ann Schaffer (34)

***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 3<sup>rd</sup>: Team 4

### **Elder Greeters**

- 3 Laura Pearson
- 10 Robin Lapsley
- 17 Frank Grier
- 24 Mary MacKenzie Swenck

### **Ushers**

- 3 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall, David Huff
- 10 Kitty Bice, Rich Kowalski, David & Lynne Reeser
- 17 Kitty Bice, Rich Kowalski, David & Lynne Reeser
- 24 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,  
Jerry & Cheriene McCall

### **Food Closet**

- 5 *Closed*
- 7 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 12 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 14 Shelley Murray, Ann Potts
- 19 Shelley Murray, Cheriene McCall
- 21 Jane Williams, Rose Spradin
- 26 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 28 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 Communion</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>4 Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5 Food Closet</b> 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6:30 PM Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle	<b>7 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>1</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>2</b> 4 PM: Manchester Concert 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>10 Rally Day</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Pot Luck Lunch 3 PM: IPCN	<b>11</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>12 Food Closet</b> 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>13</b> 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	<b>14 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>15</b> 6 PM: Girl Scouts Sleepover 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN (8 AM: Girl Scouts Out)
<b>17</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: RISC House Mtg 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	<b>18</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>19 Food Closet</b> 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>20</b> 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	<b>21 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>22</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN 8 AM: Fall Work Day
<b>24</b> 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Congregational Mtg. 3 PM: IPCN	<b>25</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>26 Food Closet</b> 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>27</b> 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	<b>28 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>29</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>30</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
		Notes				

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Return Service Requested

**September 2023**



**Rally Day**

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**11 AM Worship**

**12:00 PM Potluck**

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.