

**From:** Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** irwink@woh.rr.com  
**Subject:** News & Notes for February 14, 2020



## NEWS & NOTES

February 14, 2020

*To be the head, heart and hands of Jesus Christ, driven by God's love for our church and the world beyond.*

## NOTES FROM NANCY

Dear Friends,

*Ash Wednesday* begins our six week journey to the cross that we call *Lent*. In the early days of Christianity, Jesus' followers would spend time in self-examination and reflection during the time of the year leading up to Easter. They recalled that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, preparing himself for his ministry. Lent is our 40 days of preparation.

While it sometimes has a reputation for being gloomy, Lent does not need to be that way. Intentionally looking beneath the surface of our daily lives and considering our relationship with God is not a dismal thing. There can be a deep inner joy in meditation, reflection, and considering our faith journey.

Why not start off your observation of Lent by joining us for the *Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship Service* on February 26? (More information can be found in this *News and Notes*.)

I hope that you have a meaningful experience of Lent that draws you into a deeper relationship with God. When we gather spiritual strength, we are better able to serve others as Christ's disciples.

## THIS SUNDAY

### **BLANKET SUNDAY**

**Date: February 16**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Place: Sanctuary**

A Church World Services Blanket provides warmth and comfort for those in need. Your support will go towards disaster relief, which includes blankets, hygiene kits, school kits, baby kits and much more.



### **ADULT EDUCATION "THE WALK"**

**Date: Sunday, January 12 (for 7 weeks)**

**Time: 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.**

**Location: Hospitality Room**

Join Pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton and deepen your walk with Christ, as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing your faith.

Facilitated by Steve Davis

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### **PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

**Date: February 21**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Place: CFC**

This is an opportunity for parents to get a free evening out on a regular basis while the children have a fun evening at Southminster. Parents' Night Out is once a month from 6:30 – 9:00pm. Children can bring their own sack dinner or fast food. The littlest ones will hang out in the nursery while the older kids (usually 3 years and up) play in the CFC. Available 3rd Friday of the month Sept – May.

## EVENTS IN THE COMING WEEKS

### **GRIEF GROUP**

**Date: February 20**

**Time: 12:00 p.m.**

**Place: Coffee Corner**

Please join the Grief Group for fellowship and support as we continue our study of Dr. Alan Wolfelt's book "Understanding Your Grief." Bring your own lunch. Hot drinks will be provided.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP**

**Date: February 21**

**Time: 10-11:30 a.m.**

**Place: Coffee Corner**

Meet in the Coffee Corner to discuss "Red at the Bone" by Jacqueline Woodson. All are welcome!

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**Date: February 26**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Place: CFC**

The journey of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a time to consider who we are and who God calls us to be. We will gather in the CFC around tables in the shape of a cross and enjoy a very light, simple meal of soup and bread. We will stay at the table for a time of worship that will include the renewal of baptismal vows and the sharing of Communion. Ashes will be available for those who would like them. We hope you will join us for this meaningful time of worship and fellowship.



Your Worship Team is supplying soup, but are requesting volunteers to bring 9 loaves of different types of bread. It can be any kind that you choose. It doesn't matter if you buy it or make it. If you are willing to bring bread, you will find the sign-up sheet in the narthex on the table across from the coffee and water.

### **ADULT EDUCATION "A CLEARING SEASON"**

**Date: March 1 - April 5**

**Time: 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

**Place: Hospitality Room**

It's time to rethink Lent. Or at least see it as spring-cleaning for the soul—a time to pause, consider and renew your relationship with God. A time to clear the darkness away and find Easter joy and newness of life. It's an altogether hopeful (not dreary) experience. This Lent, we will offer a small group study of Cynthia Parson's book, *A Clearing Season*. It's a gentle introduction to the daily practice of prayer and reflection, along with other practices meant to make time

and space in our hearts and lives for the God who is already closer to us than our own breath.

One group (facilitated by Steve Davis) will meet from 8:45 to 9:45 on Sunday mornings beginning March 1 and ending April 5. A second group (facilitated by Gay Amos) will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 on Tuesday mornings beginning March 3 and ending April 7. Both groups will meet in the Hospitality Room. Copies of the book will be available for purchase in the church office for \$13.00.

Please sign up in the Narthex and join us on this journey of self-reflection and spiritual renewal.

## **ADULT & TEEN EDUCATION**

### **NATIONALISM, PATRIOTISM, and the CHRISTIAN FAITH**

**Date: March 8 & 15**

**Time: 11:15-12:15 p.m.**

**Place: Community Room**

In Galatians 3:28, we read, *“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”* In the year 2020, perhaps the Apostle Paul would add, *In Christ, there is no Democrat or Republican.”* Just as Paul tried to preach against the “us” against “them” mindset in his day, we are faced with a new kind of sectarianism in our country today. The “us/them” dichotomy can also be seen in the ways some Christians are confusing patriotism with nationalism. How do considerations of Church and State or religious and political identity affect us at Southminster? How does the placement or religious or patriotic symbols reflect these considerations? Please join Rev. Laura Nile and Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong for a two-part class that hopes to encourage discussion of what it means to be a faithful Christian while being a patriotic American.

## **NOTES OF INTEREST**

### **GROCERY STORE COMMUNITY REWARDS**

Both Dorothy Lane Market and Kroger have community rewards programs that donate a portion of your purchase value each year to Southminster. All funds support church ministries. To link your DLM Club card, add us as your nonprofit choice now at [www.dorothylane.com/goodneighbor](http://www.dorothylane.com/goodneighbor) or complete the form available at the DLM courtesy desk. To register your Kroger Plus card, log in to your Kroger account at [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com); under My Account, click Enroll. If you are currently enrolled with another organization, click Change

Organization. Then enter NW302 (our group code), and click Search and then click Enroll.

**PASTOR BIRDSONG** will be on vacation February 17-23. If you need pastoral care please contact Pastor Nile.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Dr. Alan Wolfelt, a noted and best-selling author, educator, and renowned grief counselor, will be offering a community Seminar on APRIL 16 from 7-9 p.m. at Southminster Presbyterian Church.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Southminster Contributions – 2020\***

| Period       | Budgeted Contributions | Actual Contributions | Excess/ (Shortfall) |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Last Week    | \$10,591               | \$6,146              | \$(4,445)           |
| Year to Date | \$63,546               | \$65,117             | \$1,571             |

\* as of February 10, 2020

For convenience, you can [pay on-line](#) at our website

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