

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:24 PM
To: irwink@woh.rr.com
Subject: News & Notes for April 10, 2020



NEWS & NOTES

April 10, 2020

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



April 12 10:00 a.m. Livestream

LINES FROM LAURA

This week, our Jewish brothers and sisters around the globe celebrated the Passover Seder and they asked the question they ask every year, "How is this night different than every other night?" This year, there was one common answer because Seders happened over FaceTime or within singular households for the first time in generations. This night was *very different* than every other night.

I think we can learn this from the Jewish faith in this season. **How is this Holy Week different than every other Holy Week?** Our normal routines are all turned upside down, our gatherings have gone online, and even our families cannot worship and celebrate together. Everything about this Holy Week is different... except for God. God's love is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The story we tell, the truth we proclaim, and the resurrection we will bear witness to prevail in the midst of so much different. So on this Good Friday, I

invite you to ask this question not with despair for what is lost, but with wonder for what can be found in this strange season—How is this Holy Week different than every other Holy Week?

I hope you were able to join us for our [Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service](#) yesterday evening. If you missed the service, you can go watch it anytime today or tomorrow. The service walks through Jesus' final days, so it will be a meaningful worship experience whenever you are able to watch it. Today is **Good Friday** and I encourage you to find a moment in your day for silence reflection on what this day means, too. How is this day different than every other day?

Tomorrow is known as **Holy Saturday** and it is my favorite day of Holy Week. It's a strange in-between day when Jesus lies in the tomb. It seems as though God is dead, or at least silent. For centuries, Christians have marked this day with gardening. We get our hands in the dirt, remembering the earth that Christ laid in this day and that on Sunday morning, he was first mistaken by Mary to be a gardener. I am growing plants from seeds for the first time this spring and I have been absolutely in awe of the process. How is it possible that so much life could spring up from what seems to be nothing? Whether you have seedlings to plant, dandelions to pull up, or even just a window to look out of, I invite you to see and feel God's presence in the earth itself.

Finally, we hope you will join us for our **Easter service** on Sunday morning! During Lent, we stopped doing the passing of the peace as a symbol of the solitary journey of Lent (which then became more profound than we could have imagined!). On Sunday, we will joyfully resume the passing of the peace within our own homes and we invite you to think about how you can actively "pass peace" to your community when you cannot simply shake hands with those in the pews around you. If you have friends or neighbors without a community to worship with, this is a great opportunity to invite them to worship with us. There's never been an easier time to invite someone to church! In a season of social distancing, I have been so grateful to be able to continue worshipping with you in this new format. The good news is coming, dear friends. Death does not have the final answer.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FISH SOUTHEAST FOOD PANTRY



The FISH Southeast Food Pantry is still serving the community and expecting a sharp increase in demand due to our nation's surging unemployment. We have new no-contact delivering procedures and need deliverers available on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday afternoons who are willing to take an hour or two out of your, now less busy, days to help some of our neighbors hardest hit by COVID-19.

Other Projects:

Can you sew? Does your sewing supply contain random swatches of fabric and some elastic? Already a number of our church members have been sewing reusable fabric protective face masks. Following the You-Tube link below, you can make your own, as well as make some for our local hospitals which are already fighting COVID-19. <https://youtu.be/BCJcE-r7kcg>

Do you own a 3D printer? I know...a weird question, but not all that unusual these days! If you do, there are many (one attached) DIY facemask files that you can download and begin printing. <https://grabcad.com/library/diy-face-mask-1> This is used in conjunction with some elastic and a cut of fabric to make a fast protective mask as well! These can also be produced and provided to regional hospitals.

If you'd like to help with the FISH Southeast Food Pantry, or either mask idea, please reach out to Mission@sminster.com. We can get you started, set up collection, anything to help!

CLOTHES THAT WORK

Spring Cleaning? **Save your items for when the church building reopens.**

Now that many of us are sheltered in our homes for awhile, this may be an excellent time for cleaning out closets. If you have nice, clean (no rips, stains or pulls) clothing you no longer want or need, please consider donating them to Clothes That Work. This non-profit provides outfits for men and women who interview for jobs. It also has a boutique where anyone can visit and buy good quality clothes at reduced prices. Whenever the time comes and we are allowed back in the church, you can place your clothing across from the elevator on the lower level. On the ledge above you can find a receipt for your donation. Accessories and shoes may be boxed or bagged. A Clothes That Work Team will see that the items are taken to a Clothes That Work drop off location. Thank you!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

Vacation Bible School will be June 15-18. If you are interested in volunteering, contact [Pastor Laura Nile](#).

ADULT EDUCATION

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

Are you missing the Sunday morning New Testament class? Or do you wish you would have started the class? Whether you've never missed a class or never started, you can jump in with online videos! Steve and Helen Davis have been recording the classes so you can watch and comment on the YouTube videos. It's a great way to keep learning during quarantine. You can find all the videos on the [private page of the website](#) password: w1nd0ws

NOTES OF INTEREST

CHURCH OFFERINGS

We know that many people are worried about their finances right now, and we want you to take care of your family's needs. However, if you are able to send in your pledge or any contribution to the church, it would help us to support the staff, maintain the building, and continue with the ministries and mission of the church. There is a place where you can do this on the website (click the "[give](#)" button), and you can also mail checks to the church. Thank you for your support of Southminster Presbyterian Church.

DR. WOLFELT (NEW DATE)

Southminster will be hosting Dr. Alan Wolfelt, a noted and best-selling author, educator, and renowned grief counselor, on July 27 from 7-9 p.m. If you are interested in this free event please sign up at <http://bit.ly/2020WolfeltCommunity>

CONTRIBUTIONS

Southminster Contributions – 2020*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$10,591	\$9,288	\$(1,303)
Year to Date	\$148,274	\$137,852	\$(10,422)

* as of April 6, 2020

For convenience, you can [payonline](#) at our website.

Southminster Presbyterian Church | 7001 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45459

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