

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
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To: irwink@woh.rr.com
Subject: News & Notes for April 17, 2020



NEWS & NOTES

April 17, 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



CHRIST IS RISEN!

In 325 CE (AD) the Council of Nicaea made the decision that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. Isn't it interesting that a church council chose a time more aligned with the seasons than with any particular date in history?

One of the reasons is that the change from winter to spring is a reminder of the new life that we know in Jesus Christ. A month ago,

the beautiful flowering tree in the church yard (in the picture above) was bare and seemingly lifeless. Look at it now!

On this second Sunday of Easter, Pastor Laura is preaching and happened to pick one of my favorite hymns. The first verse goes:

*In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

The Easter message tells us that even when the world seems bleak or our lives are in turmoil, hope and new life are still stirring beneath the surface.

As we make our way through the isolation of a quarantine, grief for those who have lost their lives to this virus, and worry for those who are sick, we become more aware that the Good News of Jesus Christ is not a denial of reality or a superficial nod to happiness with jelly bean sprinkles. It defies the Cross and the deepest disappointment or pain that we might encounter, because the light of Christ's love is more powerful than any darkness in this world.

Another reason Easter isn't tied to one date is that we are called daily to live out an Easter faith. Are you and I saying and doing the things that lead to new life for those around us? Are we putting love, acceptance, forgiveness and compassion into the world or something quite different?

May we, as people of faith, remain rooted and grounded in Christ's love! While we long to be together again as a congregation, we have hope in the One who showed us that new life arises in surprising ways.

THANK YOU:

In the midst of the quarantine, we have been able to connect with each other through livestream worship services due to the talent and dedication of our MarCom (Marketing and Communications) Team. Together, the team quickly came up with the equipment we needed, and they figured out the best way to do things. On a regular basis, **Ryan Battelle** is doing the sound, **Ralph Adkins** is the director who figures out the camera angles, **Todd Hall** is an all-around helper who can let us know how the service is coming across on his i-pad,

and **Ken Irwin** is available in case we run into technical difficulties (as happened on Palm Sunday when the WiFi went down and he got it fixed a MINUTE before the service!). **Darlene Irwin** does a back-up video recording in case things shut down. While you won't see these congregation members on your screen, you wouldn't be seeing anything without them! On behalf of all of you, let me say to these volunteers and the rest of the MarCom team, THANK YOU!!!

FAREWELL McFARLAND FAMILY!

A special thank you and farewell goes to the Chair of the Marcom Team, **Brandon McFarland**. This Sunday, he will chair his last meeting before he and his wife, Elissa, and their adorable little girls, Aleena and Lexi, move to another part of Ohio. We will miss their wonderful family! Please keep them in your prayers for this new adventure in their lives.

Blessings,
Nancy

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

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP ZOOM!

Children of Southminster are invited to join Marianne Farmer for Children and Worship at 9:00 a.m. before church on Sunday April 19th. You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the link (<https://zoom.us/j/9374331810>) or by entering the meeting ID: 937 433 1810. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Farmer at lilsugarcreek@gmail.com.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

As you do your weekly shopping please keep in mind that Southminster participates in Kroger Community Rewards. If you register your Kroger Plus card and associate it with Southminster, the church receives a donation based on your purchases. To register, login to your Kroger account at Kroger.com. Under “my account” click “community rewards”. If you are not previously enrolled in community rewards 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*.” Proceeds will benefit Christian Education.

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 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 at Southminster please sign up at <http://bit.ly/2020WolfeltCommunity>

CONTRIBUTIONS

Southminster Contributions – 2020*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$10,591	\$10,296	\$(295)
Year to Date	\$158,865	\$148,148	\$(10,717)

* as of April 13, 2020

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

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

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