

**From:** Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** irwink@woh.rr.com  
**Subject:** News & Notes for June 5, 2020



## NEWS & NOTES

June 5, 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

***“Justice is what love looks like in public.”***

Dr. Cornel West

Dear Friends,

We've been here before. We find out about a particular incident of racist violence or death, and we are outraged. We join in peaceful protests (*although with COVID-19 still around, that has been more of a challenge than usual for many of us*), we post our frustration on Facebook, and talk to our friends about it. Maybe we go a little further and contact a government official or meet with others in the wider community.

Then, time passes, the news cycle changes, and for those of us who are not people of color, we don't do much about it until the next time, and the time after that. We may care about justice. We may hurt for those on the receiving end of such hate, but we don't actively do much to change things.

For those of us who are people of color, there is no forgetting because the deeply painful effects of racism never go away. A friend of mine just shared with me about the first time someone called her one of the

most offensive of racial slurs when she was only 8 years old and was taking longer than he liked at a drinking fountain. It affected her deeply, even as a young child. The pain of racism starts early and usually just increases through the years.

Not only do we, as an American society, need to do more, but Christian churches are **called** to do more. The first thing we can do is to listen to the stories of those who experience racism. Among the books that have been read by Southminster's Social Justice Book Discussion Group have been selections that offered such first-hand experiences. Later this month, Rev. Laura Nile will be leading a discussion of a book called, *I'm Still Here*. (*Find out more about it below.*)

What else can we do? How can Southminster, as a community of people faithful to Jesus' call to love our neighbor, envision ways to better listen to the voices of those who know the sting of racism? Although we can't change the world, we can try to make more of a difference in our little corner of it. It may feel exhausting and overwhelming, but we can start the conversations and then prayerfully hope that they will lead us to more substantial actions.

After the 2015 murder of 9 African American members of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, I called the other churches in town and we put together a Unity Service for the whole community. While I would love to do something like that now, the COVID-19 virus would make such a gathering unwise.

In another town in which I served, faith communities joined together annually for our own, local Martin Luther King Day observance that included a march through town, a service with a nationally-recognized speaker, a school art and poetry contest, a scholarship, and a multicultural MLK choir that sang at events in the town all year long. Most of these types of things in our part of Ohio are focused in downtown Dayton, but maybe we can think of ways to reach out to our neighbors in the coming year to see what we might dream up to foster unity in our more immediate area. Let's think together and dream together about what types of opportunities might be on the horizon for us to be more involved in seeking justice, peace and equality in the future.

The work of peacemaking and justice is the work of Jesus Christ. Loving our neighbor needs to be more than an occasional

outrage at the latest horror of what is a systemic and institutional evil in our country. I hope and pray that Southminster will make a continuing effort toward helping the world around us take on the more whole and holy shape that our Creator intends for everyone.

### **PARENTS:**

Sesame Street is putting together this program for children on standing up to racism. It can provide a good opportunity to have an important discussion with your little ones. It will be on CNN (local channel 70) for an hour this Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m.



Peace and blessings,  
Nancy

### **THANK YOU, STEVEN.**

Last Sunday, I forgot to mention our substitute organist, Steven Estep. Many thanks for his willingness to play for the worship service!

### **WELCOME, JOSH!**

If you didn't read the Constant Contact email that was sent to you this week, please look at it so that you know more about our Director of Children's Ministries, Josh Sweeney! I'm so excited to welcome this talented new staff member to Southminster! You will see him on the livestream this Sunday.

## **MORE GRADUATES!**

We didn't have the names of these graduates in time for last Sunday's News and Notes. Please join me in congratulating:

**Ella Acred**, daughter of Jeff and Karissa Acred, graduated from Centerville High School. She is still working on making a decision about next year.

**Isaac Rosenthal**, son of Adrienne Rexroad, graduated Cum Laude from Wright State University with a degree in mathematics.

## **NEXT PHASES OF CHURCH REOPENING**

**Currently groups of 10 or less can begin having meetings at Southminster.**

*Please check with office to schedule groups.  
Worship will continue to be through livestream services.*

**August 1, 2020 is the target date for in-person worship services.**

*We will continue livestream for those not ready to come back.*

## **NOTES OF INTEREST**

### **THE CASTLE**

Our friends at The Castle continue to need our support. If you would like to drop off non-perishable items at the church for them, please place the items on the red cart, located in the vestibule between the glass doors closest to the office entrance (door #5). You could also drop off canned goods and other non-perishables at The Castle or consider providing financial support by checks or cash also to be taken or mailed to The Castle at 133 N. Main Street Centerville, OH 45459.

### **INQUIRY CLASS**

Interested in Membership? Interested in learning more about Southminster? If so, please email [office@sminster.com](mailto:office@sminster.com) to sign up for an Inquiry Class.

**CAN YOU HELP US  
FIND SANITIZING SUPPLIES FOR THE CHURCH?**

Our Property Manager has been searching stores and websites since March, looking for sanitizing supplies, and everyone has been out of stock. If you are able to buy any of the following supplies for us, just fill out a green sheet with the receipt attached and give it to Sharon Ark. We will happily reimburse you. We will be needing large supplies of the following items throughout the coming months:

**Hand Sanitizer** in very large containers (*at least 60% alcohol*)  
**Clorox Wipes** or the equivalent  
**Lysol Spray** or the equivalent

**ADULT EDUCATION**



**JUNE BOOK CLUB**

Join Pastor Laura for a book club this month on the book “I’m Still Here” By: Austin Channing Brown. Brown’s book tells the story of her life growing up black, Christian, and female in middle-class white America. *I’m Still Here* is an illuminating look at how white, middle-class, Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how blackness--if we let it--can save us all. If you’re looking for a space to discuss the racial tensions and injustices that are so present in our country today, this

book club is a great place to start. You can [sign up for one of two meeting times](#) at the end of the month: Wednesday June 24, 12-1p.m. or Monday June 29th, 6-7p.m. Please purchase and read the book before the meeting. If you need financial assistance purchasing the book, please contact Pastor Laura.

### [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: w1nd0w

## CHURCH LIVESTREAMING INSTRUCTIONS

### [NEW LINKS TO LIVESTREAM FROM SMINSTER.COM](#)

We are continually working to make our website easy to use, fresh and interesting. The most recent changes have removed the big blue pop-up window that you may have used to access our live Sunday Worship broadcast or recorded videos. You can still get to the same location by clicking on the "Watch the Livestream.." graphic at the top or scroll down and click on "[livestreamed worship services](#)" link lower on the page. We will continue to send the emails on Saturday with links to the livestream and bulletin materials.

Feedback on the website can be sent to [webmaster@sminster.com](mailto:webmaster@sminster.com)

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is a convenient, easy way to support Southminster Church. You can give anywhere at anytime from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up recurring payments and never worry about bringing your checkbook again. There are several ways you can get started today!



\*Click [here](#) for full instructions.

\*Click [here](#) to donate on our website.

\*Contact Sharon Ark at Sharon@sminter.com for assistance.  
\*Mail your check to the church at 7001 Far Hills Ave, Dayton, OH 45459 or drop it by the office.

### Southminster Contributions – 2020\*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$10,591	\$7,995	\$(2,596)
Year to Date	\$233,002	\$201,965	\$(31,037)

\* as of June 1, 2020

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

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