

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:15 PM
To: irwink@woh.rr.com
Subject: News & Notes for August 7, 2020



NEWS & NOTES

August 7, 2020

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

LINES FROM LAURA

Does it feel like everything is on hold? Like the world around you is holding its breath, just waiting to see what happens? Nearly every kid, parent, or teacher that I've talked to lately is feeling that way. *What is going to happen in September? Will our kids go back to school? Will they get sick? What will happen to staff? What will happen to kids whose parents can't afford to have them stay home?* We are faced with all bad options and no one knows exactly what the future holds.

The waiting is exhausting and painful. We didn't think it would get this bad. We didn't think we'd have such impossible decisions to make after all these months of living through a pandemic. If you are feeling the weight of the hard decisions or the anxiety about the safety of your children, grandchildren, or loved ones, know that you are not alone. When my anxiety rises (and as the wife of a public school teacher, I sure feel it these days) I turn to God in two different ways—

The first is prayer. I talk to God in little moments throughout the day, "God, I'm worried. God, do you have a plan here? God, are things going to be ok?" However, there are other days when even those prayers feel like too much and it's on those days, I am so grateful for those who are praying for me. One of the things I love most about Southminster is our commitment to prayer. From our weekly Care Connection calls to the regular prayer chain, our community is filled with the faithful prayers as we lift one another's

burdens and bring them straight to the listening ears of God. When you struggle to know what to say, you can always lean on the prayers of others to get you through to tomorrow.

The second way I turn to God is through Scripture. The Bible is a complicated book and not every story is a “good” one. Sometimes, I don’t like what I read. But then I remember that life, too, is complicated. I don’t like every day that I live and I need scripture to not only speak to the good days, but also to the bad ones. If you join us for worship on Sunday, you’ll hear a story of a very bad day. A day that probably made someone wonder, “*God, could anything good possibly come out of this? Are you still with me?*” And in that story, perhaps together, we can hear what God is speaking to us today.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL WORSHIP TIME

Children's Worship starts this Sunday at 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. It will be a time for the children to gather, check in with each other and maybe sing a song or two. Pajamas and breakfast always welcome! Please sign in with the Zoom link listed below.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92142261443?pwd=SkIjS2dlRDJvaFBseGJtVE5rK1g5QT09>

Meeting ID: 921 4226 1443

Password: 4BfMSd

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Whether they will be going back to school in the classroom or the living room, kids are invited to bring their backpacks to the front parking lot to receive a contactless blessing for the school year and a small gift! If it is raining please come to the back parking lot by the Pavilion.



SOUTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Outdoor Backpack Blessing

ALL EDUCATORS,
STUDENTS, AND SCHOOL
STAFF ARE WELCOME!

Sunday, August 30, 2020
12:00-12:30 | Drive-Up Blessing
12:30 - 1:00 | Walk-Up Blessing

SUNDAY EVENTS

Virtual Coffee Hour

This Sunday, **virtual coffee hour is back from 11:30-12:00 p.m.** after church. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join Pastor Laura on Zoom for a chance to chat with other church members and discuss the day's scripture readings.

To Join the Zoom Meeting on Sunday, simply follow [this link](#) and enter the Meeting ID:82401010322. If you don't want to download Zoom, **you can also dial in on your phone** and listen and talk without video: +1 301 715 8592 US. **If you haven't used Zoom before, please follow the directions [here](#).**



A GREAT START PRESCHOOL



RUMMAGE SALE

Friday August 7 from 9-5:00 p.m. in the back parking lot of the church.

NEXT PHASES OF CHURCH REOPENING AND SAFETY MESSAGE

Currently groups of 10 or less can have meetings at Southminster.

Please check with the office to schedule gatherings inside or at the Pavilion.

Service will remain online-only until Montgomery County goes down to a Safety Level II (orange) for two continuous weeks.

We will continue livestream even when the Sanctuary is open.

Office Information

The office hours are currently M-F 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For safety reasons only 2 people are allowed in the common / reception area of the office at one time. Please wait outside if more than 2 people are in the office.

(Please see the following information from our safety team.)

**Currently in Phase Two:
Limited Office & Small Group Opening**

June 1 -September 6, 2020

1) Anyone entering the building (including staff and volunteers) is asked to perform a self-health-assessment beforehand. (*temperature check, no*

cough, no flu-like symptoms, or contact with those who have tested positive for Covid).

- 2) **Anyone in the church is required to wear mask in public spaces,**
a. Make every effort to maintain six-foot distancing, and wash hands upon entering building (*Alcohol gel available at all entrances and office*).

Thank you for keeping yourself and everyone safe!

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: w1nd0w

ACCESSING THE LIVESTREAM SERVICE

There are 4 different ways you can access the Livestream on Sunday mornings:

1. Follow the link in the Saturday email
2. Click on the link on the "[Livestreamed Services](#)" page of the church website
3. Type in "Southminster Presbyterian Church" into YouTube
4. Subscribe to [our YouTube Channel](#) and the videos should pop right up when you go to YouTube on Sunday mornings.

Should all else fail, recordings of the previous broadcasts can be access from [our Worship Videos](#) page or [our YouTube channel](#).

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to evolve this ministry!

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the members of Southminster Presbyterian Church - my second family - for the outpouring of love and affection I received from all of you regarding the recent passing of my dad, John Miller. I was blown away by the beautiful cards, the texts, and the phone calls offering your condolences to me and my family! I shouldn't be surprised - I know what a wonderful bunch of people you all are!

Your thoughts and caring meant so much to me! Blessings to all of you as we make our way through the difficult days we are experiencing! Thanks again!

In Christian Love,
Jenny Miller



NOTES OF INTEREST

VACATION

Nancy will be on vacation August 3-9. If you have pastoral needs please contact [Rev. Laura Nile Tuell](#).

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Laura will be on Bereavement Leave to attend David's grandpa's funeral, August 10-14. If you need pastoral needs please contact Pastor Nancy at 732-208-3280.

WORSHIP TEAM NOTICE FLOWERS! FLOWERS! FLOWERS!

We have decided it's time to again have flowers on the Altar table on Sunday Mornings, and we are inviting you to help provide them. You may choose a Sunday that is close to a special date you would like commemorated, or you can simply choose an open date to provide a bouquet to the Glory of God. The type of flower or color scheme can also be requested. The typical cost is \$40, which includes a discounted delivery fee of \$5. The following dates are available: August 30; September 6 & 20; October 11 & 18; November 8, 15, 22, 29; and December 6 & 27.



If you signed up on the Flower Calendar in the Narthex earlier this year, someone will be contacting you ahead of your specified date. For more information, or to contribute a flower arrangement, please contact Lois Thorp at lois.thorp51@gmail.com; or Liz Taylor at elizabethtaylor333@yahoo.com.

WANTED: EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN PARTICIPANTS!

The only requirement to join the other 100 people on the email prayer chain is the desire to pray for others! When you receive the prayer request via email, there is no need to pass it on.....ONLY TO GOD! JUST PRAY!! All prayer requests are confidential.

Please call Judy Murphy (937-433-4449) or email her at lucy1942@sbcglobal.net to be added to the prayer chain.

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray." Luke 11:1



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 the address listed below.

Southminster Contributions – 2020*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$10,591	\$11,180	\$589
Year to Date	\$328,321	\$292,119	\$(36,202)

* as of August 3, 2020

FOLLOW UPDATES HERE:



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