

**From:** Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** irwink@woh.rr.com  
**Subject:** News & Notes for August 21, 2020



## NEWS & NOTES

August 21, 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



#### **Church Re-Opening Plans**

Good news! The Montgomery County risk code for COVID-19 went down to the orange level! The Session will vote next week on which Sunday in September they plan to open the church for in-person worship. I'm so excited that the time is getting closer! We will let you know as soon as there is a firm date.

Even when we open, worship services will continue to be on livestream so that those who are in at-risk health categories and those who still feel safer at home can continue to be a part of worship.

The Safety Team is aware that, even after we open, it is likely that the risk level will continue to rise and fall through the months until there is a

vaccine. That would mean that there could be more closings and re-openings in our future. However, for now, let's just celebrate the good news!

### **Help Needed for Ted's Family:**

Ted Guest is receiving hospice care at Bethany. His children live out of state, and they want to know if one of our congregation members would be able to let them park Ted's car at your house for 3 or 4 months. That way, they would have it available when they can come to visit him. I am told that the car is clean and does not leak oil. Please contact me if you have space to keep the car for them.

### **The Presbyterian Church (USA): Justice, Love, and Equality**

In our PC(USA) Book of Order, it states,

*“God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people...”*

While our denomination affirms the fundamental equality and human dignity of all people, we also note with concern the disparities in systems of justice; housing; banking and financial wealth; education; employment; healthcare; neighborhood infrastructure; social services, and more, as they particularly impact our Black brothers and sisters in this country. It is clear in the witness of the Gospels, and throughout the Bible, that people of faith are called to seek justice for those most marginalized in our world.

If you would like to learn more about what the PC(USA) is doing in regard to racial justice, please click on [this link](#) and read the written portion of the page. Since the Gospel of Jesus Christ relates to the way that we care for each other in the world, lifting up the poor and the oppressed, it cannot help but be political. However, it is not partisan.

Our denominational leaders realize that different people have very different interpretations of BLM and ALM. The Church of Jesus Christ looks through a different lens than the secular world. Even, and especially, if you have concerns about the PC(USA)'s stand against racism, I believe your concerns will be alleviated if you read through the whole document because it poses and answers the very questions you might be asking. If you would ever like to talk to me (or to Pastor Laura) about your interest, questions, or concerns, please contact us. We would be glad to discuss it with you.

Peace and blessings,

Nancy

## 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

Blessings of the Backpacks will be outdoors this year on August 30. If you would like to drive up and receive a blessing please come from 12-12:30 p.m. There will also be a walk up time for a blessing from 12:30-1:00 p.m. We would love to see you there and please invite someone to join you.

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS VOLUNTEERS

Not a child going back to school soon but you want to be a part of Blessings of the Backpacks? Great! Church members are invited to participate in our drive-thru blessings in the following way:

1. By 11:50 a.m. park in the lower parking lot.
2. Find a socially-distanced spot along the edge of the upper parking lot to place a camp chair.
3. Make a sign wishing the students a safe & fun school year and be ready to wave at the kids who come through to receive their school-year blessings.
4. Don't forget your face mask! Even though we're outside, we want this event to be safe for all!

### GRANT PARK OUTING

All Children are invited to Grant Park on Saturday, August 22, for a time of fun and fellowship at a safe distance. We'll plan to meet at the Chimney Area of Grant Park from 10:00 a.m.

to 12:00 p.m. We'll have soccer games, kids can play by the water, and more (safely masked!) fun-filled activities for the morning!



# A GREAT START PRESCHOOL



## FALL PRESCHOOL

A Great Start Preschool is now enrolling for fall preschool for ages 2-5. Please call 937-312-1621 to sign up.

## 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) long enough for our Safety Team and Session to  
approve re-opening.

*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**

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

### **NEW TESTAMENT GROUP GOES ZOOM**

On August 23, the Adult New Testament group will begin meeting by Zoom call. The meetings will occur on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and will be repeated on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The Monday meeting will cover the same material as the preceding Sunday's meeting. The group will begin by studying the story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection as recorded in Luke and then move into the Book of Acts.

The Zoom format will provide a great opportunity for fellowship and interactive learning. If you're missing the Sunday morning group meetings (or wish you would have joined) or are just looking for a chance to beat the quarantine blues and visit with other folks, we have a place for you! If you're interested in participating, please contact Steve Davis by phone (937-885-0574) or email ([steve.davis@thompsonhine.com](mailto:steve.davis@thompsonhine.com)).

Steve and Helen Davis will continue taping the group meetings and posting them 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!

## NOTES OF INTEREST

### WORSHIP TEAM NOTICE FLOWERS! FLOWERS! FLOWERS!

We have decided it's time to again have flowers on the Communion 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: 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](mailto:lois.thorp51@gmail.com); or Liz Taylor at [elizabethtaylor333@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethtaylor333@yahoo.com).

### HYMNAL CHECKOUTS

To save paper and staff resources, we will stop printing the music to the hymns in the digital bulletins starting in September. If you are worshipping at home and would still like the sheet music to reference, you can now check out a physical hymnal from the church office. You can come by any time during office hours (9:30-12:30, M-F) and check one out for the duration of at-home worship.

### BELL CHOIR

We are so excited to have ensemble music at Southminster once again. If you or a loved one misses creating music with a church, community, or school ensemble, the bell choir is accepting new members! Bell choir is a safe, easily socially



distanced music ensemble that requires no prior experience and all ages are welcome! Contact Ruth at [ruth.mappes@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.mappes@gmail.com) if interested.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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               | \$15,019             | \$4,428             |
| Year to Date | \$349,503              | \$322,650            | \$(26,853)          |

\* as of August 17, 2020

FOLLOW UPDATES HERE:



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