

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 1:14 PM
To: irwink@woh.rr.com
Subject: News & Notes for November 30, 2018



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

NEWS & NOTES

November 30, 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

During the season of Advent, we make our journey to the manger where we experience the miracle and the mystery of God's presence in Jesus Christ. Somehow, we find hope intertwined in the life of poverty of a young couple and a baby born in a barn.



We know the destination of Christmas, but what path will we take in our travels through Advent? Maybe taking the path less traveled will let us see the gift of Christmas with new eyes. Ask yourself,

- *What is one way I can simplify the holidays this year?*
- *Where can I carve out some time for silence, prayer and meditation?*

- *Beyond the presents I put under the tree, what is a way that I can give of myself to someone in need this year?*
- *Can I make worship with my family of faith a priority?*
- *Where can I bring peace into the world? (into my life, into a relationship, into the environment where I work, or into the life of my family?)*

My hope is that we can try to live in a way that invites others to see what a difference it makes when God dwells in the human heart.

Peace and blessings,
Nancy



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS AT SOUTHMINSTER!

December 23: (Sunday, 10 a.m.)

LESSONS and CAROLS SERVICE

This service tells the story of Christmas through Scripture and Song. Our choir has prepared some special music for us, and we will get to sing some favorite carols!

December 24 (Monday)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

6:00 pm Worship Service (*especially for children*)

8:00 pm Worship Service

December 30 (Sunday, 10 am)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00 Worship Service

(The pastors will share a Christmas story instead of a sermon.)

January 6: (Sunday, 5:30 p.m.)

EPIPHANY FEAST

This is a special celebration with dinner, followed by the songs of Epiphany and a brief candlelight worship experience as we sit at tables together and welcome the magi!) See more information in this edition of News and Notes.



If you haven't yet sent in a pledge for 2019, please send one as soon as possible. Southminster Presbyterian Church needs your help to support and sustain our ministry and mission as well as our staff and building. We continue to operate at a deficit budget, taking funds from our investments. If we keep drawing from those funds, in just a few years, there will be none left and we will have to make difficult decisions about cutting programs or staff.

Please prayerfully consider what, for you and your particular circumstances, is a generous offering in response to God's blessings in your life. You can fill out a card and return it to the office or simply email your pledge information to Lynn Grubb at lynn@sminster.com.



EPIPHANY FEAST
January 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the CFC

We will celebrate with a candlelight dinner, singing, and a procession of the magi as we hear their story from Scripture. Start off the New Year with this truly beautiful and meaningful experience for the whole family.

What IS the Epiphany Feast?

Epiphany is the celebration of the glory of God revealed in the world. It is a time when we remember the story of the journey of the magi who traveled to see the Christ child and left “by another road” to share the message of God’s love and to be bearers of God’s light to the world. Come and add this special holiday tradition to enrich your experience of faith and fellowship!

The EPIPHANY FEAST will include music, dinner and worship. Whoever gets one of the 3 almonds in the cake will become one of the magi. (We also will have a small cake for those allergic to nuts.) We will have a brief time of worship with scripture, song, and candle lighting as we remain gathered around the tables. The Epiphany Feast has something that should appeal to **all ages**. (Most children will enjoy the experience, but we will have someone in the nursery if they prefer to go there after dinner.) Come and add this special holiday tradition to enrich your experience of faith and fellowship!

SIGN UP for the Epiphany Feast:

*You can put your sign-up sheet in the offering plate, bring it to the office,
or email your reservation to lynn@sminster.com.*

Name:

Email:

_____ number of adults _____ number of children

Ham, rolls, drinks, and the special Epiphany Cake will be provided.

CAN YOU HELP US OUT? Check any that apply:

___ I will donate and bring a ham to the church by January 2.

___ I will bring cut live greenery to the church between January 2nd and 5th.

(You can leave it in the outdoor pavilion. We need a lot!!! Any type can be used.)

___ I will lend candlesticks or candelabra no later than noon on January 6.
(Please tape your name to the bottom. They will be kept in a safe place, and you can bring them home at the end of the event.)

___ I will help with decorating *(need to be there by 3:30. If possible, bring garden gloves & cutting shears)*

___ I will help with cooking the hams at the church.

___ I will help with kitchen preparations.

___ I will stay to clean up the fellowship hall and/or the kitchen.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS CALLED FOR DECEMBER 9, after the worship service, to approve the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Team.

EVENTS



HANGING OF THE GREENS AND FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION!

Date: Sunday, December 2

Time: **This Sunday following Worship**

Place: Sanctuary/CFC

Come to worship on this first Sunday of Advent and stay after to help us hang the greens! When the decorating is done, we will head down to the CFC for lunch.

CHURCH TOUR

Date: Sunday, December 2

Time: Following Worship

Places: Meet at the Welcome Center

Marj Lawson will offer a tour of the church, following worship. Meet her at the Welcome Center for this tour which will take about 45 minutes.

ELDERBERRIES

Date: Friday, December 7

Time: 11:00am

Place: CFC

The [Kettering Show Choir](#) will entertain us as we enjoy fellowship and a delicious lunch of roast pork, mashed potatoes with gravy, green vegetable, jellied cranberry salad and Christmas cookies.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Date: Saturday, December 8

Time: 9:00-11:00am

Place: CFC

Get into the Christmas spirit by enjoying a yummy breakfast with the big guy. Santa will arrive during breakfast and will be available for pictures (bring your own camera). Teens are invited to come help with the breakfast crew (be there by 8:30 AM). For more information, contact Mark Locke at locke9233@gmail.com or (937) 748-9233.



FA LA LA! TIS THE CAROLING SEASON!

Date: Saturday, December 15

Time: 3:45-6:30PM

Place: Off-site

Sign up and plan to join Southminster members, friends, children, youth and scouts for our fourth year of informal caroling for shut-ins. Sing on key or off but come (song sheets provided). If you play the guitar, uke, mandolin, etc., plan to use it! Also, we would like some ideas for simple ornaments to give to our audiences. We will go to 2 or 3 retirement communities and perhaps some homes to sing the familiar carols. The group will travel in the Scout bus. Sign up in the narthex or outside of the church office. Questions or ideas? Contact Phyllis Strayer at 433-2133 or phyllisstrayer@gmail.com.

For additional upcoming events, be sure to visit our [website](#)

TIME AND TALENTS

DID YOU FILL OUT A NEW TIME AND TALENTS FORM?

If not, please use [this link](#) to go to the Website for the form and turn it in to the church as soon as possible.

GROWTH GROUPS

ADULT EDUCATION ADVENT STUDY NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

Dates: Sundays through December 23

Time: 8:45-9:45am

Location: Adult Lounge

Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. All are used by the Prophet Isaiah to describe the coming Messiah. But how did people in Isaiah's time understand these titles, how did Jesus fulfill or not fulfill them and how do Christians view Jesus as representative of each title? This 5-week Advent study facilitated by Steve Davis will explore these questions using the book *Names for the Messiah* by renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. All are welcome!

Visit our website for information about Southminster's [Children's ministry](#) or [Youth ministry](#)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Celebrate advent by giving to those in need. The children and youth of Southminster will again be collecting items for the Reverse Advent Calendar. Calendars with donation suggestions will be available in the Narthex. The children and youth will collect

items beginning **Sunday, December 2.**

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday, December 2

Advent Kick-Off, Ark Room

11:30–12:30 AM (for middle school and high school youth)

Saturday, December 8

Breakfast with Santa: making breakfast and helping with crafts, CFC.
8:30–11:30am (for middle school and high school youth)

Saturday, December 15

Caroling with the Choir & Christmas Party

Caroling: 3:45 PM, Meet at SPC back parking lot

Christmas Party: 7:00 PM, Meet at the Ferguson's Home
(for youth of all ages and their families)

Sunday, December 23

Advent Round-Up, Ark Room (for middle school and high school youth)

11:30am–12:30pm (for middle school and high school youth)

SHOE BOXES FOR VETS

This year at Christmas, we will again be remembering our veterans at the Dayton VA Medical Center with "Shoebboxes for Vets". Look for the Christmas tree in the Narthex with ornaments showing what items are needed by the Vets. Please take an ornament, do some shopping, and return the ornament along with your purchased items as well as a plastic shoe box and place under the tree. Do not wrap your purchases, the volunteer elves will do this when the boxes are assembled. All items have to be returned to the church by **Sunday, Dec. 16**. If any of you would like to volunteer as an elf, we will be assembling the shoebboxes on Monday morning, Dec. 17 in the Hospitality Room. There will be a sign-up sheet by the tree. Last year, a dozen elves volunteered and completed 117 shoebboxes and two additional large cardboard boxes filled with board games in under three hours. Let's try to exceed last year! If you have any questions, please contact Brenda and Joe Ricketts at 885-2477 or 623-1689.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

ARE YOUR EYES PLAYING TRICKS? Did you notice that the parking lot and inside lights are brighter? They are. Your Buildings and Grounds Team has been working with Reliable Electric to change the entire building over to LED lights. This means we get brighter lights while using less electricity. This major project is costing us about \$41,000. We are using Nesbit Estate funds which were designated by the Nesbit family for use on our building. In addition, we received many rebates from DP&L when Reliable bought some of the fixtures and bulbs and we should receive an additional \$2,000 rebate at the end of

the project. Electric savings are projected to be over \$10,000 per year!!! This will pay for itself in a little over 4 years. Our next project is to change the Sanctuary over to LED. Stay tuned for our progress.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

It has been recently reported that lights are being left on in unattended rooms and hallways. Please remember to turn off lights when you are leaving a room, hallway or bathroom. You may notice we have nightlights in formally dark areas, including the hallway behind the office, outside of the Hospitality Room and outside of the library. These will always be on when overhead lights are turned off.

CHRISTMAS STAFF HONORARIUM

Christmas greetings from the Personnel Team! As this important season rolls around, we all have an opportunity to contribute toward the Christmas Staff Honorarium. If you are able to contribute, please mark your check or envelope "Staff Honorarium." It can be placed with the Sunday offering, mailed or taken to the church office. As before, I've been told this is not a deductible contribution. All monies will be distributed equally to our wonderful staff. So that we can do this smoothly, please have all contributions in by **Sunday, December 16, 2017**. *Charles Tapp, Personnel Team Chair*

OFFICE CLOSED FOR STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The office will be closed from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5 for a staff luncheon. In case of emergency, you may contact Pastor Nancy on her cell phone.

FROM THE STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM

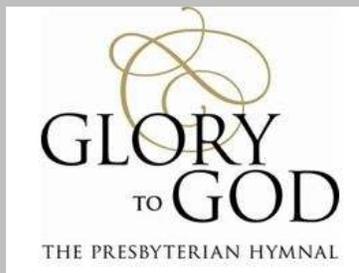
Do you anticipate having a "Blue Christmas"? Many of us associate that phrase with Elvis Presley. But for others it is a reality. Some will be grieving or missing a loved one; some have worries that bring a heavy heart; some have no one with whom to celebrate the holidays. Maybe a loved one is in the armed services and can't be home. Maybe time, age, or distance makes travel too difficult.



This year the Stephen Ministry Team here at Southminster will be providing a way to acknowledge those difficulties in a quiet, worshipful way. There will be a 'Blue Christmas' tree placed in the Sanctuary, and paper ornaments to write on, then hang on the tree. You can write the name of someone who will be missed this season, or a worry that muffles the joys of this time of year. The notes can be signed or remain anonymous, as each individual prefers. Your Stephen Ministry Team will meet to pray for the names or situations described on the ornaments, asking for GOD's presence and strength for all through this difficult time of year.

Please look for the Blue Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary, away from the hustle and bustle of the Narthex and Coffee Corner. Take a moment to honor your feelings, your worries, your grief and pain with the full knowledge that GOD hears you and cares.

GLORY OF GOD HYMNALS



If you are willing to help us obtain the current hymnal of the Presbyterian Church (USA) called *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* by purchasing one or more books, please fill out a form and send a check with "new hymnal" on the memo line. Each book costs \$20 and can be given:

- in honor of people you know,
- in memory of a loved one or friend,
- or just as a gift you want to present to the church.

Bookplates with this information will be added to the front page of each hymnal. The deadline for contributions is Monday, December 17. Please see more information as well as the order/dedication form by following [this link](#) to a form on our website.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Southminster Contributions – 2018*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$9,503	\$4,097	\$(5,406)
Year to Date	\$446,641	\$476,970	\$30,329

• as of November 26, 2018

Our current estimated full year earnings shortfall is \$(45,000), excluding gain/loss from investments and capitalized assets.

Stay Connected: Find us on Facebook and visit our [website](#)



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

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