

Ken Irwin

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
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To be the head, heart and hands of Jesus Christ, driven by God's love for our church and the world beyond.

NEWS & NOTES

December 1, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Advent seems to sneak up on us, and before we know it, we find ourselves in a flurry of holiday activities. Unlike the craziness of consumer-driven celebrations, our worship services and special events at the church are meant to bring a sense of peace and purpose to the season. Come to church during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and remember the reason that we celebrate in the first place. Someone once sent me this version of the familiar 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 text as it has been changed around a bit for Christmas, and I want to share it with you:

*If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows,
strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls,
but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.*

*If I slave away in the kitchen,
baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals
and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime,
but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.*

*If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home
and give all that I have to charity, but do not know how to love,
it profits me nothing.*

*If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes,
attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata,
but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.*

*Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.
Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love doesn't envy another's home
that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.
Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way,
but is thankful they are there to be in the way.
Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return,
but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

*Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust
.. .but giving the gift of love will endure forever.*

*May you have a meaningful Advent and a Merry Christmas!
Nancy*

UPCOMING EVENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - TOMORROW!

Date: December 2, 2017

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Location: CFC

Santa will be making an appearance during
breakfast! We hope you will join us! If you have any questions, contact
[Erin](#).



HANGING OF THE GREENS AND FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Date: Sunday, December 3, 2017

Time: After 10:00am Worship Service

Location: Sanctuary

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 and a little singing. Please bring a salad or dessert and leave it in the kitchen before worship. Although reservations are not required, please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend so that we can provide enough pizza. Thank you!



CHURCH TOUR

Date: Sunday, December 10, 2017

Time: 11:15am

Location: Meet at Welcome Center

Next Sunday, Steve Davis will offer a tour of the church, following Worship. Meet him at the Welcome Center for this tour which will take about 45 minutes. Advance registration is not necessary, but helpful and can be noted in the Friendship pad.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2017

Time: 10:00am

Location: Sanctuary

The choir will lead the congregation in the singing of carols, alternating with readings from Scripture that tell the story of Christmas.



FA LA LA! LET'S GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2017

Time: 5-7pm

If the season is incomplete unless you can sing songs of the season to appreciative audiences, plan to go caroling with Southminster members and friends, children and youth and Southminster Boy Scouts. We will go to 2 or 3 retirement communities and perhaps some homes of shut-ins to sing the familiar carols. Specific information to come. Suggestions appreciated. The group will travel in the Boy Scout bus. Sing on key or off but with gusto! (song sheets provided)



If you play a guitar, "uke" or mandolin, plan to use it!! Also we would like some ideas for simple ornaments to give to our audiences. Sign up in the Narthex or outside the church office. Details will follow but immediate questions AND IDEAS should be directed to [Phyllis Strayer](#) (433-2133).

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

(4th Sunday in Advent)

Date: Sunday, December 24, 2017

Time: 10:00am

Location: Sanctuary

This service will have a special emphasis on the children but will also include meaningful worship for adults. If you are planning on attending the 10am Christmas Eve worship with children and/or youth and they would like to participate, please contact Erin Dickerson (erin@sminster.com).



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING AND COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

Date: Sunday, December 24, 2017

Time: 8:00pm

Location: Sanctuary



THE EPIPHANY FEAST

Date: Sunday, January 7, 2018

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Christian Fellowship Center (CFC)



*Join us for this
special time of
fellowship
and worship for the
whole family!*

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.

Ham, rolls, drinks, & the special Epiphany Cake will be provided.
(If you can donate a ham in advance, please contact the church office.)

PLEASE BRING a vegetable or other side dish *(no desserts, please.)*

IF YOU CAN: Lend us candleholders or a candelabrum for the occasion.

Bring them a day or 2 in advance with your name taped to the bottom. We need plenty of them, and we will keep them safe. You can take them home again after the event.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN ADVANCE

so we will know how much ham to bring and how to set up the tables!!!

Call the church office 937-433-1810, or email us at lynn@sminster.com. Include your name, number of adults and children, and let us know if you will be lending us candlesticks or a candelabrum.

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.

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 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.

I hope to see you there!

Nancy

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

GROWTH GROUPS

MARY HAD A BABY: AN ADVENT STUDY BASED ON AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS

Dates: Beginning Sunday, December 3, 2017

Time: 8:45-9:45am

Location: Hospitality Room

This 4-week study focuses on four compelling African American spirituals: "Mary Had a Baby," Rise Up Shepherd and Follow, "Children Go Where I send Thee (You)," and "Go, Tell it on the Mountain." We engage the Scriptures on which the lyrics are based, learn the historical context which shaped these songs and listen to the songs (and reflect on the beautiful harmonies). All are welcome!

For more Growth Group information,
be sure to visit our [website](#).

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE FISH SOUTHEAST FOOD PANTRY!

Our Food Pantry provides an important service for those who struggle to have enough food on the table for their families. The Kauffmans have given an enormous amount of volunteer time and energy to this project. Right now, they need to be close to their son through his significant health challenges. Can we, their Southminster Church family, step up and help in this ministry of compassion? Here is how you can help:



- Callers – retrieve calls from our voice mail, contact clients to confirm eligibility, contact deliverers with client's information. Calls are returned Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30-12:30. This can all be done from home.
- Deliverers – fill out the required form, contact the client to schedule delivery time, pick up food at the Food Pantry at Southminster, & deliver the food.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jane at fishsoutheast@yahoo.com, or the church office.

SHOE BOXES FOR VETS

It's that time of year when we begin our Christmas giving for the veterans at the Dayton VA Hospital. Look for our Christmas tree in the Narthex with the ornaments showing what items are needed by the vets.



Please take an ornament, do some shopping, and return the ornament and purchased items as well as a plastic shoe box and place under the tree. Do not wrap your gifts, our volunteer elves will do that when all the shoe boxes are assembled. All items and plastic shoe boxes must be returned under the tree by **Sunday, Dec. 17**. Last year we provided 89 boxes for the vets. Hopefully, we can exceed that number this year. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda and Joe Ricketts at 885-2477.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MISSION TEAMS

are joining efforts this Advent season to bring you our Reverse Advent Calendar. What is a Reverse Advent Calendar you ask? Each day in December, instead of receiving a treat or opening a tab, you pick one of the items listed on the calendar to donate for that day. Bring your items to the church, and they will be donated to one of the many missions Southminster supports. Donations will be collected by the children and youth each Sunday in the Narthex. Please join us in helping make this Christmas special for our community.



REQUEST FOR WHEELCHAIR

Do you have a wheelchair that you are not using at home? We would like to have a church wheelchair available in the Narthex when needed. If you can donate one, please contact [Lynn](#) in the office.

MEDIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to help out running Media Shout in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings? If so, please contact [Elizabeth Davis](#) for information and to sign-up.

ARTEMIS CENTER DONATION DRIVE

Andrew Coderre, a Life Scout in Troop 516, wants to make a difference in his community. His current service project is to ask that donations be made to the Artemis Center, a non-profit organization helping victims of abuse.

What to donate: backpacks, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, pencil boxes, notebooks, glue sticks, binders, folders and paper (lined and graph).

Where to donate: Look for the specially marked donation bins at Centerville High School, Kroger (on Rt. 48) and Soutminster Presbyterian Church (in the Narthex). **The drive ends December 2.** To learn more about Artemis, go [here](#).

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

WE WANT YOU! (PICTURES FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY)

The Photography Team will be taking pictures again on **Sundays December 3, 10 & 17**. These are casual pictures of you and/or your family to be used for a new, up-to-date church directory. There will not be a cost to our members for these pictures. How they will be distributed will be communicated after the directory is completed. Stop by the Welcome Center after church and let us capture your smiles.

POINSETTIA SALE!

Order forms can be found at the Welcome Center and in the church bulletins. Place your order by **December 12.**



JANICE SHORT CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Please note the following correction in regard to Janice Short's service on December 22, 2017: The reception is during the greeting time beginning at 12:00 noon and ending at 2:00 p.m. The service will begin at 2:00 p.m.

A WORD FROM THE INVITATION TEAM

The Invitation Team would like to thank the elf or elves who created the lovely custom sleeves for the Hershey chocolate bars we give to first-time guests. But we don't know who you are! Members of the Team found the sleeves in a plastic tub marked *Evangelism*, and we've been gifting this special Southminster item for a number of months.

If you're the elf or can name the elves who've created the sleeves, please let [Marj Lawson](#) or [Adrienne Dickson](#) know. We'd like to thank you!

BOXES TO A GOOD HOME!

Are you moving and need some boxes? Please help yourself to any boxes that are in the hallway behind the office close to the choir room.

CHRISTMAS STAFF GRATUITY

Christmas greetings from the Personnel Team! As this important season rolls around, we all have an opportunity to contribute toward the Christmas Staff Gratuity. If you are able to contribute, please mark your check or envelope "Staff Gratuity." 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 divided among the 13 members of our wonderful staff. So that we can do this smoothly, please have all contributions in by **Sunday, December 17, 2017**. *Charles Tapp, Personnel Team Chair*

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember to submit your final 2017 contributions to Southminster no later than **Friday, December 29, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.** Contributions received after **December 29, at 11:00 a.m.** will be recorded as 2018 contributions.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

Southminster Contributions – 2017*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$11,310	\$9,957	\$(1,353)
Year to Date	\$531,518	\$465,165	(\$66,353)

* as of November 20, 2017

Please give generously!

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



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

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