

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 12:00 PM
To: irwink@woh.rr.com
Subject: News & Notes for December 7, 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

December 7, 2018

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.



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.



SHARING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

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.

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.

EVENTS

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. 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.

BLUE CHRISTMAS (LONGEST NIGHT) SERVICE

Date: Friday, December 21, 2018

Time: 6:00pm

Place: [Covenant Presbyterian Church](#), 415 North Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066.

For some of us, this is a difficult time of year when we are missing someone, feeling lonely or depressed. Covenant Presbyterian Church is offering a service for anyone feeling blue this holiday season.



EPIPHANY FEAST

Date: Sunday, January 6

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: 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. Follow the link to the website to [sign up](#).

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.

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

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 shoeboxes 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 shoeboxes 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

The last day for signing and printing of checks is Friday, December 21. Please turn in all **Green Sheets** before this date. Sharon Ark will be in the office on Monday, December 31 to make the last deposit of the year. **The office will be closed Monday, December 24 through Friday, December 28.**

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*

THE JOY OFFERING is our fourth special offering that Southminster supports. This offering will be made on **December 23** this year. Please consider making a donation. What is the Joy Offering and why do we support it? The Joy Offering supports our churches past, present and future leaders. It provides funds to be used to provide financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. It provides income supplements for workers, helps workers by housing supplements and those in times of great financial need due to unforeseen circumstances. This Offering also provides education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and

colleges. Please use the envelope provided either in your bulletin or the pew to make your offering. Also, please mark your checks with Joy Offering so that we will know what your wishes are. Thank you for giving. *The Mission Team*

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE



Order your Poinsettias Today!!

\$9.00 each

Please bring or mail your completed form, with cash or check (made out to SPC, note "poinsettias" in the note section), to the church office or place in the offering plate.

Orders will not be taken without payment in advance. The deadline is December 18th. Please pick up your poinsettias anytime after Christmas Eve services.

Your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin:

I wish to buy _____ red poinsettia(s)

I wish to buy _____ white poinsettia(s)

In Memory of _____

In Living Tribute of _____

In the Glory of God _____

2018 CHRISTMAS MUSIC DONATION



2018 Christmas Music Donation

Enclosed is my gift to the Music Fund to help provide music and instrumentalists for our Christmas music.

Your Dedication will be displayed in the Worship bulletin.

Circle one: in honor of in memory of as a gift

Name(s) of person/people you are honoring/remembering:

Examples of Dedications:

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe, in memory of Eleanor Doe
Mary Smith, in honor of Jane Doe

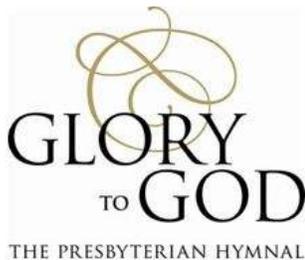
Your Name _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church, put "Christmas Music 2018" on the memo line, and include the check with your order. (If you donate in **cash**, please attach it to this form.)

Deadline for donations is December 18, 2018.

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	\$12,149	\$2,646
Year to Date	\$456,144	\$489,119	\$32,975

• as of December 3, 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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