

**From:** Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2018 12:21 PM  
**To:** irwink@woh.rr.com  
**Subject:** News & Notes for December 14, 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 14, 2018



**Sunday, December 23** is our Lessons & Carols Service. It begins with a prophecy and our Savior's birth accompanied by carols and anthems. It's a beautiful, musical, special worship service. All are welcome!



**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



### **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](mailto:phyllisstrayer@gmail.com).

## **GRIEF GROUP (SOUP GROUP)**

**Date:** Thursday, December 20

**Time:** 12:00p.m.

**Place:** Coffee Corner

“Christ led fellowship, support and information for a grief journey.”

The December gathering of the Soup Group will be this **Thursday, December 20 at 12:00 in the Adult Lounge**. Soup and drinks will be provided for everyone. After our lunch and fellowship, Pastor Nancy will read The Tear Soup Book. This special gathering is a great way to end the year and start a new year of support for each other. - *Jane Hancock*

## **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](#) or you can sign up using this Sunday's bulletin insert.

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

## **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!

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

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH



**PLEASE WELCOME HEATHER GREENE**, who will start working in the nursery this Sunday. Heather is 24 years old with a 3-year-old son and soon to be another son. She is a stay at home mom who spends lots of time outside with her child and their two dogs. She and her son are always crafting, baking and cooking.

### 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 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 "Shoeboxes 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

### Upcoming Important Dates

**Deadline to submit 2018 Green Sheets: December 21**

**Deadline to Submit Annual Reports: January 6**

**New Officer Training (2-part class):  
January 13 and February 27, 2019 *after worship***

**Annual Meeting: February 3, 2019 *after worship***

### **INQUIRY CLASS**

We are happy that you have been visiting us at Southminster! A new Inquiry Class will be held in the early part of 2019 for those interested in knowing more about the church and for those wishing to join our congregation. If you would like to be a part of this class, please call

the church office and leave your name and phone number. (If it is hard to reach you by phone, you may want to give us an email address as well.) Someone will contact you to give you more information, answer questions, and coordinate a date for the class.

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will not be arriving until after the first of the year. If you are in need of some unnumbered offering envelopes, you may call or stop by the office for some.

**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.

**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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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:

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#### Examples of Dedications:

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

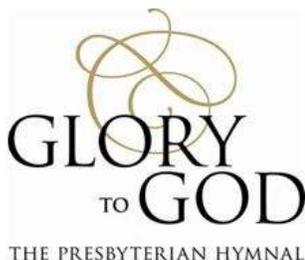
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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	\$7,214	\$(2,289)
Year to Date	\$465,647	\$496,333	\$30,686

• as of December 10, 2018

Our current estimated full year earnings shortfall is \$(35,000), excluding gain/loss from investments and capitalized assets.

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



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