

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 12:01 PM
To: communications@sminster.com
Subject: News & Notes for December 15, 2017



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 15, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

In the midst of all the holiday activities, being a part of a church family helps to center us in what is most important about the season. I hope you will join us this Sunday, December 17 at 10 a.m. for our *Lessons and Carols* service when we will hear the story of Christmas in Scripture interwoven with the beautiful anthems of the choir and the opportunity to sing some of our favorite carols.

As you may have figured out, this year on December 24, the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are the same day. After discussions between our Christian Education and Worship teams, the Session agreed that this particular year, we would have the service that is especially focused on children at the **10:00 a.m. service**. The children will be telling the story of Christmas as they bring forward the nativity figures. Then, the pastors will be reading a special Christmas

story, meant for all ages. We will have the lighting of the *Advent Candle of Love* at the beginning of the service and the lighting of the *Christ Candle* at the end. The **8:00 p.m. service** will be a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service.

I hope to have the blessing of worshipping with you during this important time in our journey of faith as we celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation and the wonder of God's love that has come to us in Jesus Christ.

May God's Peace be With You,

Nancy

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH TOUR

Date: Sunday, December 17, 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

1. Plan to meet at the Scout bus behind the church at 4:45 where we will practice.
2. The bus will leave at 5 p.m.
3. We will bus to Bethany Retirement Center where we will sing at 4 or 5 of the retirement areas (exact route is being decided). Bill



Artman, Southminster member and resident of Bethany will be our guide.

4. Words to all carols will be available. Singing will be informal and selected as we go.

5. After Bethany, we will proceed to Heartland retirement center on the corner of Alex Bell and Clio Rd. where we will sing through the halls.

6. Those interested will go back to the church, and proceed to Panera for hot chocolate or other goodies.

Joyfully, Phyllis Strayer (433-2133)

SOUP GROUP (GRIEF GROUP)

Date: Thursday, December 21, 2017

Time: 12:00 noon

The next Soup Group will be this **Thursday, December 21 at 12:00** in the Adult Lounge. Soup will be provided by the Alpha Group ladies and I will bring our hot beverages. The Tear Soup Book will be read by Gay Amos. I hope you can join us for this very special Soup Group Gathering! Blessings, Jane Hancock

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 worship with children and/or youth and they would like to participate, please contact Erin Dickerson (erin@sminster.com).



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT 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

WE NEED YOUR HAMS!

Grocery stores sometimes give away or offer good deals on hams for Holidays. Having enough ham for the Epiphany Feast (on January 7th) can be expensive. Therefore, if you acquire a ham you might contribute to the feast, please let us know. We can label it and keep it in the CFC kitchen freezer.



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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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.



THE CASTLE

The Castle will not be picking up donations in December due to Christmas being on the 4th Monday. If you wish to donate items this month, please take them to The Castle. Outdated items will not be given to the Castle at the January 22 pick-up.

CLOTHES THAT WORK

Volunteers are needed for a three month commitment to see that the clothing donated for Clothes That Work be taken either to the Clothes That Work location at Edwin C; Moses Blvd. or to the Boonshoft Center for Jewish Culture and Education on Versailles Dr. which is off Loop Road. Usually there are two volunteers per quarter. If you are willing to volunteer for this mission, please contact Mary Stahley at 401-8667 or email Mary at: mstahley@aol.com.

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.

SUNDAY GREETERS WANTED

The Invitation Team is seeking Greeters for the 2018 calendar year. Please email [Adrienne Dickson](#) if you are interested in serving in this ministry.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

WE WANT YOU! (PICTURES FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY)

The Photography Team will be taking pictures again this Sunday. 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.

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 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.

OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed **Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1**. The office will reopen on **Tuesday, January 2**.

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	\$7,181	\$(4,129)
Year to Date	\$565,448	\$489,196	(\$76,252)

* as of December 11, 2017

Please give generously!

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