

**From:** Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 21, 2018 1:38 PM  
**To:** irwink@woh.rr.com  
**Subject:** News & Notes for December 21, 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 21, 2018

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE



One of the most helpful ways for us to find a path to the heart of Christmas is to make the journey together—in community. Think for a moment about the story of Christmas. You don't see a figure sitting alone on a golden throne, but a baby lying in the hay, watched over by Mary and Joseph. Those who are called to visit the manger come together. There isn't just one shepherd, but a group of shepherds—not a wise man but wise men. Even the angel is surrounded by a multitude of the heavenly host. Each has a place and a part as they come to see the baby and stumble upon a miracle in a stable where a tired mother tenderly touches the cheek of her newborn son.

When we journey toward Christmas as a community of faith, we discover its meaning in each other's eyes, voices, actions and smiles. There is something special about sharing our experiences of the

difference that Christ has made in our lives. Our hearts are touched as a family gathers around the Advent wreath to welcome us to worship, wonder fills the eyes of children, and the sublime beauty of a choir anthem fills the air.

A sense of connection comes from being a part of reaching out in love to others beyond the church. Finally, we gather on Christmas Eve amid a sea of candlelight. These are some of the shared experiences that teach our hearts to wait in wonder for the Holy One to enter anew.

***If you have not come to worship with us in a while, this is a wonderful time to come back and experience meaningful worship in the warmth of your family of faith.***

I hope you and your loved ones will be a part of these special moments as we make our way to Bethlehem together.

*May you have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

*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.*



**LESSONS & CAROLS**



This Sunday, December 23, join us for this beautiful service to hear the story of Christmas through Scripture and song. We will have wonderful choir anthems and some of your favorite carols. This is a service you won't want to miss!

**EPIPHANY FEAST**



**THE EPIPHANY FEAST IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

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

***(Note: If you bring a ham, please buy one that has been pre-cooked and sliced)***

**THANK YOU**



**YIPPEEE!**

**WE WILL HAVE NEW HYMNALS!**

Thanks to your generosity, we have enough contributions for the new *Glory to God* pew hymnals, a few large-print editions, and the needed

accompanist books! We will be placing the order before the end of December. If anyone is willing to help when the bookplates need to be attached, please contact the office.

### **THANKS TO THE CAROLERS**

Phyllis Strayer, Kim Catchpole and their merry band of Southminster carolers joined the Boy Scouts to visit retirement homes and nursing homes with some Christmas cheer. They lifted spirits, brought some joy, and had fun doing it!

## **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

### **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.

### **CHURCH TOUR**

**Date:** Sunday, January 6, 2018

**Time:** 11:15am

**Place:** Meet at 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.



### **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**

**Please note the class scheduled for this Sunday, December 23 has been cancelled and will resume on Sunday, December 30 at 8:45 a.m. in the Adult Lounge.**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**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)

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

**INFORMATION OF INTEREST**



**THE JOY OFFERING** is our fourth special offering that Southminster supports. This offering will be made this Sunday, **December 23**. Please consider making a donation.

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**Green Sheets** are due today, **Friday, December 21**. 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**. Mail will be picked up daily. *Pastor Nancy will be in and out of the office during this time. If you need her, you can leave a message on her cell phone: 732-208-3280.*

**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**

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**ATTENTION TEAM CHAIRS:**

Please submit your annual reports to Lynn at [Lynn@sminster.com](mailto:Lynn@sminster.com) by January 6, 2018. If you would like to see a copy of last year's annual report for a guide, it is at the church website [here](#).

### **THE CASTLE 2018**

Over 46 members of our giving congregation provided food for the Castle in 2018. Many of these providers donated more than once. Thanks to all of you who have so graciously served the needs of The Castle this year. The January and February sign-up sheets will be by the Mission board soon.

### **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.

**SHOEBOXES FOR VETS** was a huge success due to the generosity of the SPC congregation. The elves filled 125 shoeboxes in record time for distribution to our vets at the VA hospital. In addition, two shopping bags containing games and shower shoes were delivered. A big THANK YOU to all who participated and especially to those who donated their time as elves: Mary Stahley, Sharon Boyko, Jacque Ryan, Ralph Young, Suzi Dameron, Marilyn Kemper, Kathy, Richard and Tori Jester. From Brenda and Joe Ricketts

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

## Southminster Contributions – 2018\*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$9,503	\$20,639	\$11,136
Year to Date	\$475,150	\$516,973	\$41,823

• as of December 17, 2018

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



*Merry Christmas  
from your Southminster Staff!  
Christian, Heather, Jenny, Jerry, Jim,*

*Kaitlyn, Karen, Kim, Lynn, Nancy,  
Ruth, Sharon, and Steve*

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



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