

Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors



December 2023

Regular Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9 am to 4 pm

Office closed Dec 25 – Dec 31




1011 – 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P7

Phone: 403 327-3404 * Fax: 403 320-9863

Email: smunited@shaw.ca

Webpage: southminsterunited.org

Find us on Facebook 

Sunday Worship Services

10:30 a.m.

In person or live stream on Facebook

Minister's Message:

In the darkness of December, we wait for the light of Christ to come to us through Advent. This time of year is so meaningful to us as we intentionally pause amidst the busyness and consumerism to allow God's quiet voice to break through.

In our joyful celebrations and feasting, we often look forward to time reconnecting with family. It has occurred to me recently, that in addition to our families of origin and the families we have created, we are fortunate to have our **church family** as a part of our lives.

I have witnessed our members arranging to offer rides to others when the previous person driving them was no longer able to do so. We have witnessed our members doing chores and bringing meals for others when they've had a medical emergency. All of these things have happened independently amongst the members of the congregation. It is so encouraging to see the daily support that we offer to one another as a church family.

As our year draws to a close, I wish to offer to God our gratitude for everything that 2023 has blessed us with. This was the first year since I arrived where we worshipped together in person all 52 weeks of the year. It has been such a blessing to spend this year with you.

I am very proud of our congregation's decision in April to become an Affirming ministry, and to say **Publicly, Intentionally, and Explicitly**, that all are welcome at Southminster United Church. We are inclusive of all genders, all races, all sexual orientations, all physical and mental abilities. On Sunday, January 21, 2024, we will celebrate receiving our official Affirming designation.

Thank you all for your contributions over this past year that made Southminster great. For making Sunday coffee, reading scripture, singing in the choir, serving on council and committees, hosting suppers, phone calls and cards to your church friends, a friendly invitation to a newcomer, teaching Sunday School, as well as your financial gifts that sustain the work of our church. Southminster is great because its people are great.

Amongst the shopping, baking, wrapping presents, decorating trees, and travelling to see loved ones may the true meaning of this season be revealed: "Peace on Earth, and goodwill to all humankind."

From our household to yours, MiYeon and I offer you a very Merry Christmas.



Rev. Taylor on a ladder placing an Angel on the Chancel tree on Nov. 27

- Rev. Taylor



FOR SALE!!!



A three-story six-bedroom home at 1210-4th Avenue South is on the market.



Why is this particular home of interest to Southminster →?

Because it was at one time the **church manse**. The house stands on the south side of 4th Avenue, two blocks east of the church. The definition of a manse is “*an ecclesiastic residence or minister’s house*” and it is often rented or paid for by the church.

In the early days of the Southminster United Church before and after union, the church had a manse (pictured) which the church purchased for the sole purpose of providing a home for the incoming minister and his family. The house, built in 1913, had six rooms and was the home for Reverends Philip Jones and Thomas Faichney in the 1920s; James M. Pritchard in the 1930s; H.A. Mutchmor in the 1940s and Nelson Mercer into the early 1950s and their families. The manse was an easy walk to the church and was sold to private owners in the late 1950s.

Early church records show that the Women’s Association and later the UCW Manse Committee maintained the dwelling. They saw to the rent, the furnishings, and repairs, replaced worn out carpets, freshened the paint, curtains, and purchased supplies for the kitchen.

The 110 year old house still is in use today but as a private residence now for sale.

In addition, there was a second manse at 526-26 Street South. It was built in 1950 and was used by Dr. H. Frame and sold in 1966.

- **By Trish Purkis, Church Archivist**

(Part 1 of 2 of Manses)

Our Saturday morning at Ten Thirty

activities by Faith Formation Committee are ongoing! Upcoming Saturday programs at 10:30 a.m.

- Dec. 2 In our “Write mind” - please bring something you have written in the past.
- Dec. 9 Fun for the Holidays: games and hot chocolate! Bring friends and family and relax before the chaos of Christmas.
- Dec. 16 Rev. Carol will lead a discussion in the Lounge.
- Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 cancelled for the holidays

"Tad Talk"

is the renamed "Saturday at Ten-Thirty" Tad's Bible Study.

It will begin on Saturday, **January 20**, 2024 at 10:30 AM. The scope of the discussion group will be expanded to include general discussion about various issues of life and faith that include their Biblical base. Because of popular demand to continue the Discussion about "Death and Dying," the first few sessions will be the continuation of the theme of the end of life and Christian faith.

- Rev. Tad

Hello from Church in Society!

December brings lots of activity around our Angel and Mitten Trees, as our generous congregation and community donate gifts for children and families in need.

Angel Tree: Please pick up an Angel from the tree, then bring your UNWRAPPED gifts into the office. The LFS volunteers will come and pick up the gifts as needed. This year, a few of us are volunteering as drivers and in the toy room bundling gifts. Thanks to those who volunteer!

Mitten Tree: Please bring NEW gloves, toques, hats, gloves warmers, scarves and socks for the Mitten Tree, and place them right on the tree in the Narthex.

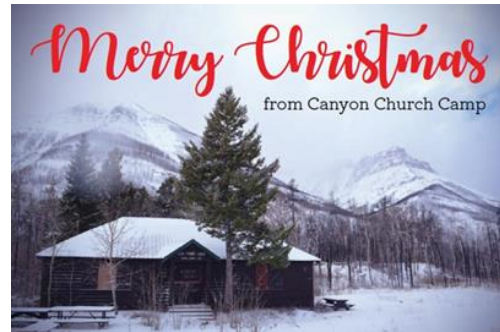
Food Bank: From Dec 1 to 11, we will have a red bin from the Food Bank available at our church to collect food items for the food bank. Let's see if we can fill the bin FULL!! Did you know that often items like cereal, Kraft Dinner and other boxed items that require milk and butter may go unused if families don't have those staples. An idea this year is to include powdered milk so families can still enjoy these items. Canned goods are always welcome as well as non-perishable items. LET'S FILL THE BIN, SOUTHMINSTER!! Please bring your items to church for the Sunday morning service on Dec 3rd or 10th, or during the week if you happen to visit the office.

100 Women Who Care: Corinne and I will host the 100 Women Who Care in Southminster Hall this month. I personally invite all women in the congregation to attend. The amazing non-profit organizations in our city that we have had the pleasure of learning about have been phenomenal. To date, the 100 Women have given back \$265,000 to local non-profit groups and charities. This is a movement and group of women to get behind. Please join us on Tuesday, Dec. 5th!!!

Thank you for your continued support for Church in Society. Our kindness and compassion never go unnoticed. It makes our job representing outreach groups in our community so easy.

Enjoy the little things this season.....a child's smile, a kind gesture, a pay it forward moment, a gift to a friend or family member with nothing expected in return or a hug to someone in need. These little things may be huge to someone and spread joy!

Melanie Winters
Co-chair of Church in Society



All I want for Christmas is to return to Canyon Church Camp!

*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the camp,
All the buildings were dark, not a light from the lamps.*

*Board members were waiting to share their big plans,
While the fundraising committee tried to rally camp fans.
A bathroom campaign, is now underway,
as we try to raise money so we can go back and play.*

*While some wait for Santa to leave presents under the tree,
Camp Canyon kids want to play "Capture the Flag", running free.
By e-transfer, Canada Helps, GoFundMe, cheque or cash
We'll take all the help we can get, in a flash!
As you feast on your turkey, and gather with friends,
Don't forget about Canyon as winter descends.*

(by Christina and Rhett!)

As the camp board of directors prepare for spring construction, we are asking you to remember us in your charitable giving this season. Our plan is to build as much as possible this spring/summer, but in order to plan for that, we need to have money to spend. What a great way to top up your charitable giving for 2023.

Large donations will be commemorated with a plaque on the building of the donor's choice. To replace one camper cabin is estimated to be \$60,000. Perhaps your family wants to pool their resources and pay for a whole cabin. How fantastic would it be to go to camp and see your family name on a cabin?!? If you know someone, or an organization, that would be interested in sponsoring a building, please contact me. The sooner we get the money in place, the more construction we can do in 2024.

Donations can be made by e-transfer to campcanyon@gmail.com, by cheque, or on Canadahelps.org. If you have any other questions, please contact me at 403-328-9944 or campcanyon@gmail.com.

Thanks for supporting Canyon Church Camp, and have a Merry Christmas!

Christina Whittmire
President, Canyon Church Camp board of directors



Affirming Committee Update

We are so grateful for the ways that you have engaged with the process of becoming an Affirming Ministry this year:

- Saturday at 10:30 sessions with Hilary Squires, Pam Rocker from Affirming Connections, and Cris and Katie from OUTreach Southern Alberta
- wearing your pronoun pins
- walking in Lethbridge's Pride Parade
- showing up with your presence and voice to local counter protests
- engaging in conversations to help expand your own knowledge
- meditating on different ways to personally learn and grow

The date of our official celebration will mark the beginning of our public, intentional, and explicit declaration that Southminster United Church is an affirming congregation.

We will continue to educate ourselves and others, we will continue to seek out ways to be more welcoming, and we will continue to stand up for folks who are actively being oppressed in our city, country, and world. The celebration does not mark the end of our commitment to continue having crucial conversations. Thank you for pledging to love all God's children... just as Jesus would do.

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 10:30 am during the worship service with a celebratory Coffee Hour to follow

- by Hilary Squires

Advent and Christmas Services at Southminster

Advent Sundays Dec. 3/10/17/24 Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
 Blue Christmas service Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7pm in the Sanctuary
Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24 Candlelight Service at 7pm

During the season of Advent, most people are celebrating the joy of the season and family gatherings.

However, for many this is a very lonely time of year. If you know someone you think might benefit from a card or phone call, please contact me.



Blessings to everyone.

Janice Ross, chair of Pastoral care committee
 Janice.ross@telus.net
 403-330-4482



Congregational Breakfast on Saturday, December 2 at 9am
 Featuring Eggs Benedict
 Cost \$10 per person

Guest speaker: Rev. MiYeon Kim

All women of the Congregation are invited to

a Christmas Get-Together

on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023 at noon at Chef Stella's
 (address 525 - 4 Ave South)

You can order off the menu and enjoy visiting while you eat. Please sign up by entering your name on the sign-up sheet in the main hallway so we can reserve a place for you

Questions? Call Joan at 403 328 4771 or Wanda at 403 382 8391.

Hope to see you there!



Friday Fit for Life at Southminster at 9:30 to 10:15 am.

Group Fitness Class for all fitness levels, ages and genders. Our awesome instructor Victoria keeps us challenged according to the individual fitness level and ability.



December classes will run on Fridays **Dec. 1/8/15**, then we'll break for a couple of weeks for the holidays.
Cost: by Donation (suggested \$5 per person, pay what you can).

By Lori O'Leary, a
wordsmith & treasurer



A YOUNG BOY, IN THE MIDST OF A LARGE, H-ANGRY CROWD, is asked to share his meager lunch. Without delay, he offered his small basket of bread and fish – *no doubt bewildered by the request, - thinking - how can this little amount I have to offer really help?* But we know – **because** of his Faith - through Jesus' miracle - his gift fed thousands of people that day. Can you imagine the Wonder, Joy, and Fulfillment the boy must have felt - watching Jesus magnify his gift?

Throughout the Bible we see these types of stories recounted numerous times — one small gift makes a dramatic difference for others. What we think of as a mere token multiplies as it is passed on.

TODAY, WE HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY to experience the wonder, joy, and fulfillment that come – first of all, by accepting that whatever **Blessings** – Treasure, Talents, Assets - you have received are ultimately **a Gift** – *designed especially for You* - from our Creator. In Gratitude, we are **Called to Respond** - through **Giving**.

Your financial and volunteer support empowers the programs, missions, and ministries that make a significant difference in *OUR* lives and the lives of our neighbors near and far.

Here's an idea of **Some** of what **Southminster** has been involved in over the past year. - We have supported our weekly worship services as well as several additional services We have had several discussion and learning circles on varied topics – both biblical and “worldly”. We have hit upon a wide variety of interests, events, or training with our Saturday morning gatherings. We have re-awakened interest in the Men's Club and treated ourselves to dinners and breakfasts. We have been socially active after church on Sundays. We have improved the safety of the building and the people in it with a new fire alarm system. We have supported luncheons and hosted gatherings for other worthy associates. We have used our creativity to include all comers and invite any who are seekers. We have – with the **Legacy** left by those who had our best interests in hearts and minds long past – paid off our Covid Loan and have improved our annual Income as a result. **AND - Lord - Don't You Know It - How we have Made Music !!**



We must, however, remember that we need to replace the Legacy Funds so that they may continue to provide some security to the future of Southminster.

We have all seen an increase in the necessary expenses that impact our lives. Think Utilities, Think Groceries. Think Housing. The church is no different – *only Bigger (LOL)*.

With thoughtful consideration, and sometimes considerable research, we have managed to keep our spending in check. Virtually all our expenses are under budget. *However*, we continue to survive – *on a wing and a prayer* - grateful that no emergency events or major complications have occurred.

This is a very old building – *Reality Check* – any number of things could happen at any time to set us back. With this in mind, we started the year with good intentions to create a “rainy day” fund – as well as to set aside funds to pay down our Covid liability. Thus far, we have not been able to develop either of these plans.

In fact, year to date October – we have not met our Income obligations to cover the expenses that we do have. With more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year gone, our General Offerings and Gifts to the church sit at only 60 % of what we had anticipated for our annual budget. Cost Recovery is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ of what we had hoped for. *However*, Rental Income is about 70% of budget with the 2 busiest months yet to come.

Your Stewardship Committee will soon sit down to discuss the upcoming budget year. We must take into consideration necessary increases over the prior year which will continue to allow the church to meet the challenges of these times without sacrificing our commitment to our congregation, community, and staff.

During this time of stewardship, we ask you to prayerfully consider your gift to Southminster knowing in full faith that God will use your offering to transform lives.



October 2023 Financial Figures

2023		YTD	YTD	44	Budget	
<i>Southminster United Church</i>	<i>31-Oct</i>	<i>Average per week</i>	<i>Average per day</i>	<i>2023 Budget</i>	<i>Budget per week</i>	<i>Budget Daily</i>
Congregational Collections	98,001	2,227	318	162,500	3,125	446
Designated Recoveries	12,641	287	41	24,100	463	66
Rentals & Other Income	116,803	2,655	379	165,000	3,173	453
Total Funds In	227,445	5,169	738	351,600	6,762	966
Staffing Costs	184,478	4,193	599	228,413	4,393	628
Operating Costs (Office etc)	26,120	594	85	46,270	890	127
Facility Upgrades	12,939	294	42	12,000	231	33
Building Upkeep	6,047	137	20	20,000	385	55
Utilities	27,285	620	89	40,000	769	110
Committees	5,308	121	17	18,625	358	51
Total Expenses	262,176	5,959	851	365,308	7,025	1,004
Current Net	(34,731)	(789)	(113)	(13,708)	(264)	(38)

Colour the Calendar Challenge

Below we have listed the cost of daily expenses for our building. We are using December as our **Make Up Month**. Here's where you come in!

You can cover the expenses for one day, with a sponsoring donation to the General Fund of:

- \$6 Organ Maintenance
- \$6 Telephone and Internet
- \$10 Photocopying
- \$12 Building Repairs
- \$17 Building Supplies
- \$29 Electricity
- \$35 Security costs
- \$36 Custodial costs
- \$47 Insurance
- \$63 Heating
- \$200 Daily expenses



We are offering you the opportunity to sponsor the expense of your choice and the date of your choice.

In Southminster Hall you will find a large December calendar with color-coded strips of paper. (Thank you to Amy Dodic for her handiwork!). Each colour represents one of these daily expenses. Help us fill the calendar with colour to pay our expenses for the month of December or sponsor a whole day for \$200.

You can donate in person after worship, or by sending an e-transfer to smunited@shaw.ca (indicating in the notes section your name and what you would like to sponsor). Alternatively, you can fill out a pledge card and pay in the near future.

Questions? Talk to one of your Stewardship Committee members: Steve Dobay and Lori O'Leary

Ecumenical Campus Ministry message from Canon Erin Phillips:

It's that wonderful time of the year when we organize delivery of Christmas dinners to students staying in residence or International students staying alone in the community. \$30 provides a wonderful meal prepared by Stella's Dinner and some Christmas treats delivered by smiling volunteers! If you would like to contribute, donations can be sent to ECM at 2406 11th Ave. S, Lethbridge, AB, T1 K 0K8 or by going to Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ecumenical-campus-ministry/>. Please indicate it is for food ministry.

Thank you for your support!

The Rev'd Canon Erin Phillips (she/her)
Chaplain, Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge



WATERTON UNITED CHURCH
32nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE,
SUNDAY, DEC. 17th at 5:00 p.m.
Leader: Mrs. Joyce Taylor
POTLUCK FEAST @ 6 p.m.
(Please bring dishes & cutlery if possible).
All Faiths Welcome.
"God Bless Us, Everyone."
Watch for news on FB, web-site
(waterntonunitedchurch.com) and posters.
Year-round rentals,
(secretary: caroluanne@gmail.com; 403 308 6812.)



You may have noticed a new **Nativity Set** in the Lounge! For years, this ceramic Manger scene was seen on the pulpit in Magrath United Church at Christmas. After their church closed down, the set was returned to the Verbitsky family. They, in turn, have now donated it to Southminster.

Our **Christmas Tea and Bazaar** on November 28 was a great success. We had the best volunteers and guests anyone could wish for!! A special shout out to Eileen Townsend and Robyn Albiez for the volume of baked goods they provided. Together, we fundraised almost \$4,500 and cannot wait for next year!

Thank you to Carol Romses and Joyce Boisvenue for their leadership in making sure it all came together!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>11:45am Advent Bible Study with Rev. Taylor</p>	 <p>4 3-10pm WCHS Concert (S)</p> <p>4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</p> <p>6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)</p> <p>5-10pm 100 Women Who Care (SMH)</p> <p>5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch)</p> <p>7-10pm Caritas Concert (S)</p> <p>7-9pm Vox Musica (UH)</p>	<p>5 10:30-11:30am Homeschool (S)</p> <p>4pm Book Club (L)</p> <p>4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</p> <p>5-10pm 100 Women Who Care (SMH)</p> <p>5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch)</p> <p>7-10pm Caritas Concert (S)</p> <p>7-9pm Vox Musica (UH)</p>	<p>6 9-11am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>10-12pm Momm. Conn. (WR)</p> <p>12:45-1:45 Sportball (UH)</p> <p>5-6pm Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>5:30-7pm It's About Music (SMH)</p> <p>6-9:30pm Homeschool (UH, S)</p> <p>7-9pm Choir Practice (Ch)</p> <p>7-8pm Rollerskate Lethbridge (SMH)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>7 9-11am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv.(L)</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada</p> <p>3-10pm CCH Concert (S, SMH)</p> <p>4:30-7:45pm Sportball (UH)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>8 9:30-10:15am Fit for Life (SMH)</p> <p>10-11am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>5-9pm WTWGTG (SMH, K)</p>	<p>9 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>10am-7pm LCBS (S)</p> <p>1-5pm Symphony (SMH)</p> <p>7-10pm Mayor's Concert (S, SMH)</p>
<p>10 9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship—</p> <p>11:45am Advent Bible Study with Rev. Taylor</p> <p>12pm-10pm Symphony (S)</p> <p>6pm-1am Little Caesars (SMH)</p>	<p>11 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</p> <p>5-10pm Symphony (S, SMH, L, J)</p> <p>7pm Symphony Concert</p>	<p>12 4pm Book Club (L)</p> <p>4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</p> <p>5:30-9 It's About Music (S)</p> <p>6-6:45pm Zumba (SMH)</p> <p>7-9pm OUTREACH (BR)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>13 8:30am-9pm St. Pat's (S, SMH)</p> <p>9-11am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>12:45-1:45 Sportball (UH)</p> <p>5-6pm Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>5-15pm Worship and Music (BR)</p> <p>5:30-7pm It's About Music (SMH)</p> <p>6:45-7:45 Hockey training (UH)</p> <p>7-9pm Choir Practice (Ch)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>14 9-11am Sportball (SMH)</p> <p>10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv.(L)</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada</p> <p>12pm-9pm GPMS (S, SMH)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>15 9:30-10:15am Fit for Life (SMH)</p> <p>10-11am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>4-8pm WTWGTG (SMH, K)</p>	<p>16 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH)</p> <p>10am-3pm Tuba Christmas (S)</p> <p>1-5pm Symphony (SMH)</p> <p>2:30-4:30 58 BD (UH)</p> <p>5:30pm-12am Toledo (SMH)</p>
<p>17 9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>11:45am Advent Bible Study with Rev. Taylor</p> <p>7pm It's About Music Concert (S)</p>	<p>18 1-9pm Opokaasin (S, SMH)</p>	<p>19 4pm Book Club (L)</p> <p>3pm-9pm LCI (S)</p> <p>6-6:45pm Zumba (SMH)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>20 5-6pm Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>7-9pm Choir Practice (S)</p> <p>7:30-8:30pm Rollerskate Lethbridge (SMH)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>21 7pm Longest Night Service (S)</p> <p>10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv.(L)</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>27 1-4pm Private Rental (SMH)</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>28 NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION</p> <p>8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)</p>	<p>29 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 10:30 am Worship led by McKillop No Service at Southminster</p>						