




# Southminster News

Open Hearts  
Open Minds  
Open Doors

1011 – 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P7  
Phone: 403 327-3404 \* Fax: 403 320-9863  
Email: [smunited@shaw.ca](mailto:smunited@shaw.ca)  
Webpage: [southminsterunited.org](http://southminsterunited.org)

Find us on Facebook 

## June 2023

### Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
9 am to 4 pm



Sunday Worship Services  
**10:30 a.m.**  
*In-person or live stream on Facebook*

## Minister's Message:

This is our final newsletter before the summer break, and I am happy to greet you again in the name of Jesus, and to share these words with you.

This Sunday after worship, Rev. MiYeon and I will be travelling to Halifax, Nova Scotia to attend the ReVITALize conference. MiYeon was invited to be one of the guest lecturers to talk about music. We are very fortunate that part of our travel costs will be supplemented by this and we are most grateful for the opportunity. I look forward to dipping my toes into the Atlantic Ocean.

The end of June will be busy. Southminster has applied to walk in the Pride parade and that same weekend will be the Dragonboat festival. "Holy Ship" takes to the waters of Henderson Lake again after a three-year pause. I hope you are able to join all the activities scheduled for that very busy final weekend of June.

Last week, I was happy to have the opportunity to share a casual lunch with all of the Lethbridge United Church clergy: Lois Punton, Trevor Potter, and Glenda Wert. It was good to check-in with how things have been going for our churches. Over the summer, the four Lethbridge United Churches will be sharing in joint worship again. Southminster will be hosting the July services and the August services will be at McKillop.

Not to steal anyone away from our joint worship, but I know many people like to make the trip out to Waterton on the Sunday when MiYeon and I are leading the worship in the park. You can join us at Waterton Lake United Church on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Looking to later in the summer, we will be having our Vacation Bible School in the final week of August, the 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Please share this with anyone you know with children in Grades 1-5. We are always in need of volunteers that week. You can contact the office and we'd love to have you join us in the fun.

And finally, we will return back to our regular programming in September as we always do. Our barbeque at the Elk's Picnic shelter at the river-bottom will be on September 10<sup>th</sup> following worship.

We all know how precious summer is, living in a country with winter for five months of the year. I hope that you take the opportunity to enjoy time in God's creation and receive some much-needed rest.

"Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before God, all the earth.  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult,  
and everything in it." – *Psalm 96*

- *Rev. Taylor*



## Inside Cornerstones!

*Trish Purkis entertains us with tidbits from the archives in her monthly Archives Corner!*

**Found in the church archives are two cornerstone programmes:**

One for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wesley Methodist Church at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue dated Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 1904, the other for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wesley Church at 11 Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue dated June 17, 1913.



The 1904 programme listed dignitaries Reverend J. E. Hughson, B.A., pastor. Also present was Reverend. J. M. Harrison, president of the Alberta Conference who conducted the service as ordered by the Discipline of the Methodist Church and Albert Carman, general superintendent of the Methodist Church. There was special music rendered by the Lethbridge Fire Brigade Band.

This programme included an introduction, two hymns #661 & #664, a prayer, responsive readings, a scripture lesson, an offering & addresses [of no more than five minutes] by special guests Reverend Charles McKillop Presbyterian Church, Reverend G. J. White, Baptist Church, William Oliver Esquire, Mayor of Lethbridge, William A. Hamilton Esquire who gave a short historical sketch on the city and church, Lethbridge’s first mayor C.A. Magrath and Dr. W. A. Galbraith who placed items in the cornerstone.



A Lethbridge Herald article dated October 5, 1963, reported the findings when the Wesley building which had become Stern’s Furniture, had been demolished.



The contents included a copy of the Daily News, the Daily Herald, The last Christian Guardian, Disciplines of the Methodist Church, hymn books, a Bible, church magazines and old coins.

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**In June: Water bottle drive for the Soup Kitchen**



We have learned that there is a great need for refillable water bottles at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen. They welcome used bottles and will properly clean them before giving them out to those thirsty on the streets of Lethbridge. Please bring your extra water bottles to the church any time in June and we will deliver them to the Soup Kitchen.

Many agencies have a need for small **hygiene items** (hotel sized shampoos, body wash, toothpaste etc.) and **socks**. These items will also be most welcome during our June community drive! *Thank you for caring for our neighbours!*

**Rev. Tad's Bible Study will take a break for the summer.**



**It will be convened on the third Saturday of September, Sept. 16, 2023.**  
We have agreed to take up the last book of the New Testament, Revelation.

**Summer office hours will be in effect**

**June 26 – August 18**

The office will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9am to 12 noon  
*Closed Mondays and Fridays*

**JUNE is PRIDE MONTH**

The Affirming Committee will be out and about at Pride events throughout June. This is a great way to practice allyship for our 2SLGBTQ+ neighbours, families, and friends. Attending events like these shows a historically marginalized community that their lives and loves are worth affirming and celebrating. This is especially valuable for people to attend as representatives of Southminster and of the United Church—as a public declaration that our interpretation of Jesus' message is one of love and inclusivity.

If none of the following options strike your fancy, check out [lethbridgepride.com/events](http://lethbridgepride.com/events) for lots more events going on around Lethbridge. Please reach out to Hilary Squires or another member of the Affirming Committee (Gabrielle, Amy, or Sheila H.) if you'd feel more comfortable attending with a buddy.

June 3 at 1:30 pm	Reading with Royalty	LPL Main Branch
June 8 at 6 pm	Downtown Queer History Walking Tour	tickets at <a href="http://galtmuseum.com/calendar">galtmuseum.com/calendar</a>
June 17 at 1:30 pm	Reading with Royalty	LPL Crossings Branch
June 19 at 6 pm	Pride Flag Raising	City Hall
June 23 at 7 pm	Chairs Martini Award Night	Galt Museum & Archives
June 24 at 11 am	Pride Parade	between the Civic Track and Galt Gardens

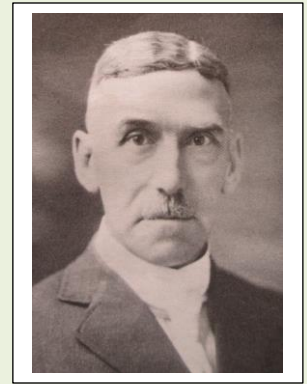
- Hilary Squires



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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wesley Church cornerstone was laid June 17, 1913. The following individuals were listed in the programme. The chairman was Reverend T.P. Perry, pastor and former president of conference, the choir, five speakers - His Worship Mayor W. D.L. Hardie, Reverend A. C. Bryan, Dr. J.S. Stewart M. L. A., W. A. Buchanan Member of Parliament, W.A. Hamilton, and Dr. Walter S. Galbraith M.D. (pictured on the right) who was chosen to lay the stone.



An unsigned handwritten copy of the program revealed a list of contents inside the stone. In a tin box, there were the names of Reverends Perry and Cobblestick, the architect H.M. Whiddington, the contractors Smith Bros. and Wilson, all officers of the church and members of the building committee. Plus a copy of the discipline, the Christian Guardian, both the Lethbridge News and Herald, a copy of the calendar for Knox and Wesley Churches, a photo of the pastor and a selection of the current coins.

**Were the contents found in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wesley building also placed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> building?  
It is something to ponder.**

- *Trish Purkis*

*Congratulations, Carol, on your great accomplishment! We are very proud of you!*

***Hello everyone:***

It has been a long winter and spring, as I have been completing the Master of Divinity at Vancouver School of Theology, and convocated in May. It is with great joy that I finally get to share the news of my completion of all the candidacy board interviews, and how much I have appreciated the support of you, my church family. I will be granted ordination on July 30 in Edmonton during the National Indigenous Church Assembly.

Becoming a minister in the United Church of Canada is like us working folks waiting for the weather across the country from which we share the name. The weather is slightly unpredictable and fluctuating, and if you don't like it, wait 5 minutes for it will change again. I have taken a temporary position driving field trucks for the spring seeding and growing season here in south AB and we wait upon the weather a lot. Farming teaches us that patience is indeed a necessary virtue and for the purpose of crafting and creating ministers in the United Church the same patience is needed. The educational journey to ordination is now streamlined in the new candidacy pathway, but it still has many moving pieces that cannot be seen.

As one of the transitioning students that have gone through school during the changes at both the national and regional church level, I am so happy to see the results for the new system, that are coming to fruition and it will be easier for other students going forward. We have a lot of hard-working people in the differing levels of the church that support the student journey, and education to prepare our students to continue to be world leaders, or neighbourhood champions as an ongoing and vital part of our bigger mission. All these students, as I do; owe a debt of gratitude to the sponsoring congregations from which we have arisen, and I want to share how much it has meant to continue to have your support.

- *Carol Many Chief*

***Southminster Ladies' Downtown Day!***

***Saturday, June 10, 2023***

We start the day at 10 a.m. with coffee at the Penny Coffee House. After coffee and treats, we'll spend the morning exploring Downtown Lethbridge shopping opportunities.

At 12:30pm, those who wish, will gather for Lunch at Chef Stella's Diner.

Please sign up in the main hallway for the lunch. You are welcome to attend any or all of these activities.

*Pictured here are ladies from our 2022 Downtown day!*



**Come and cheer on Southminster's 2023 Dragonboat Team, Holy Ship!**

We'll be paddling in the Lethbridge Dragonboat festival on the weekend of June 24 & 25, 2023. This is Southminster's 5<sup>th</sup> time participating. Thank you to Lori O'Leary for being our fearless coach and to Christopher Collins for the team T-shirt design!

**Vacation Bible School VBS 2023**

We are getting ready to blast off for this year's VBS. Stellar - Shine Jesus' Light is a space-based adventure that helps kids discover what it means to shine Jesus' light in the world. **Stellar VBS will run from Monday August 28<sup>th</sup> to Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 from 9am - 12pm** at Southminster United Church. Registration is open for anyone who has completed Kindergarten all the way up to Grade 5. Got older kids who want to join us? We are always looking for interested teens and pre-teens who want to help our kids have fun.

VBS is a lot of fun - but it wouldn't be possible without adult volunteers. We need people who are willing to prepare and lead some of our space stations. So if you want to be a part of games, crafts, singing, videos and skits - please consider joining us this August. Contact Gabrielle at 905-749-2371 to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Not able to help out in person in August? Feel free to reach out to the office with any financial donations as well. VBS needs game and craft supplies as well as SNACKS.

We look forward to seeing you be a part of this fun and exciting mission. (Space mission that is!!)



**Friday Fit for Life at Southminster**

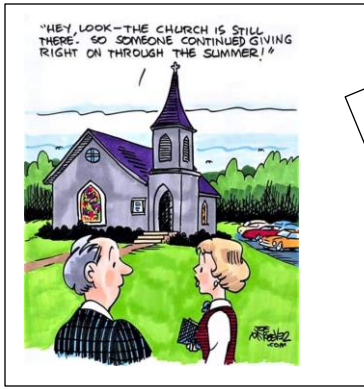
Friday mornings at 9:30 am to 10:15 am. *Circuit Training Group Fitness Class* for all fitness levels, ages and genders.



**Cost: by Donation** (suggested \$5 per person, pay what you can).

**June classes run on Fridays June 2/9/16 and 23, then we will break for the summer. Back in September if there's enough interest!**

**~ It's fun staying fit together! ~**



- by Lori O'Leary, a dragon-boating treasurer

This is where I feel closest to Creator. The breath of God through the trees sings to me and the babble of water quenches my soul. I imagine shapes, images, in the branches and in the clouds that re-appear in my dreams. And – believe it or not – I think about YOU – about the fellowship and sense of community found at Southminster – and I **Thank God** for all of it. **I am Blessed.**

I wonder as I wander – every single day. I wonder as I wander – every step I take . . . And every path I wander brings me awe-filled wonder -with every sight, sound, smell, touch, loving word, kind action, every hug and every breath. Every where, all around us, God’s daily miracles manifest in our every day world. **We choose** to see them – or not.

I wonder as I wander through the Spring and upcoming Summer – just what is “wonder”-full in your lives. What is it you are thinking of? Most of you will know where my head is at about now – and for the next month . . . I’m visualizing Henderson Lake in a variety of weather conditions. I’m placing faces and bodies in a boat and hoping it will not only float, but travel the distance with speed and finesse. I’m thinking about making decisions without hurting anyone’s feelings. I’m thinking about the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival and the incredible positive energy that permeates the atmosphere and wishing I could share it with the whole community - - - and then the inevitable Crash of Exhaustion that comes at the end of the weekend.

After that, my life returns to “normal” – the usual work schedule, the usual household chores, the usual gardening - but, hopefully, with a weekend or two of camping where I can get out in Nature.

Everyone, I think, can relate to the situation. You have an event or something that you anticipate and prepare for, looking forward to it with every fibre of your being - and after it is over = the anti-climax. Then, you can’t wait to do it – or something like it – again. In the mean-time - - -“normal” – plain old, boring old “normal”. **I challenge you to see God in the “Normal”.** Look at the world through the eyes of a child. Take a close-up photo of a flower or a loved one’s eye. Zoom in on a butterfly, or even a spider. You may be amazed. Maybe, keep a notebook to remind yourself that there is always much to wonder at – *in all ways*. Perhaps, this could be a new way of counting your blessings.

Also Amazing – the continued financial support of Southminster folk though the summer months when many are off on their “awesome” adventures. For those that have not already done so – now is a good time to sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) to ensure your Contributions continue in your absence. Call the office for more information. The office is happy to take your current contribution by cash, cheque, interact (debit card) or charge card – in person or by phone. Please remember that – just like your own home – some expenses continue even if you are away. Your assistance is necessary and greatly appreciated.

April Financial Figures

2023	YTD		YTD		18	Budget	
Southminster United Church	30-Apr	31-Mar	Average per week	Average per day	2023 Budget	Budget per week	Budget Daily
Congregational Collections	37,881	27,890	1,549	221	162,500	3,125	446
Designated Recoveries	4,479	4,012	223	32	24,100	463	66
Rentals & Other Income	48,388	32,976	1,832	262	165,000	3,173	453
<b>Total Funds In</b>	<b>90,747</b>	<b>64,877</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>351,600</b>	<b>6,762</b>	<b>966</b>
Staffing Costs	76,209	56,804	3,156	451	228,413	4,393	628
Operating Costs (Office etc)	9,782	7,042	391	56	46,270	890	127
Facility Upgrades	358	358	20	3	12,000	231	33
Building Upkeep	3,644	3,282	20	3	20,000	385	55
Utilities	18,592	13,861	770	110	40,000	769	110
Committees	3,621	2,800	156	22	18,625	358	51
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>112,206</b>	<b>84,146</b>	<b>4,512</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>365,308</b>	<b>7,025</b>	<b>1,004</b>
<b>Current Net</b>	<b>(21,459)</b>	<b>(19,269)</b>	<b>(908)</b>	<b>(130)</b>	<b>(13,708)</b>	<b>(264)</b>	<b>(38)</b>

Annual Book Sale

Thank you to our Faith Formation Committee for organizing the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale.

This event is a great way to connect with the community and recycle books and puzzles.

This year, the sale brought in \$945!

Remember to keep the books you read this summer and bring them to the church to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Book sale!



Memories from the Dinner on the Danube (April 21, 2023)



This fun evening was made possible by dozens of volunteers: a special thank you to our MC Steve, music master Rudy, Wine goddess Joyce and all the folks who contributed to the Danube themed decorations!

While we planned a FUNraiser, not a fundraiser, we still managed to line the coffers of the church with \$915 at this event.

Ten best summer things to do in Lethbridge, according to TripAdvisor:

1. Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden
2. Henderson Lake Park
3. New West Theatre
4. Helen Schuler Nature Centre
5. Galt Museum & Archives
6. Indian Battle Park
7. Fort Whoop-Up
8. Nicholas Sheran Park
9. Pure Casino Lethbridge
10. Pavan Park

Have a great summer!

Men's Club Breakfast on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>



Too many cooks in the kitchen? Never!  
We look forward to more Men's Club breakfasts in the fall!

Lethbridge United Churches  
Joint services Summer Schedule  
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**July worships at Southminster United Church**

- July 2 with Rev. Trevor Potter
- July 9 with Glenda Wert
- July 16 with Rev. Taylor Croissant
- July 23 with Rev. Taylor Croissant
- July 30 with Rev. Erin Phillips

**August worships at McKillop United Church**

- (address 2329 15 Ave S, Lethbridge)
- August 6 with Rev. Lois Punton
- August 13 with Rev. Lois Punton
- August 20 with Glenda Wert
- August 27 with Rev. Trevor Potter

### *Southminster's Graduates of 2023!*



Congratulations to **Nate Bruce** on your High school graduation from LCI! We join his proud parents Dan and Gabrielle in wishing him all the best in the future – it will be bright!

As far as immediate plans: he is taking the next year to work and hopefully travel while he decides what comes next.



Congratulations to **Emma Arnell** on your Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Microbiology and Immunology Degree from McGill University in Montreal.

Emma plans to continue her studies at a Master's program in Europe, currently deciding between Finland and Italy... we hope you will enjoy this next chapter in your life.

Remember to come and visit us in Lethbridge, too!

