

Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors




March 2023

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9 am to 4 pm



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Webpage: southminsterunited.org

Find us on Facebook 

Sunday Worship Services
10:30 a.m.

In-person or live stream on Facebook

Minister's Message:

The church has entered the season of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection and penitence, mirroring Jesus' forty days in the wilderness tempted by Satan, which prepares us for Holy Week and Easter.

Traditionally, Christians have used this time for fasting, prayer, and acts of mercy. I hope that whatever spiritual discipline you have chosen to pursue during this season will bring meaning to you. If you are still unsure of something you could do for Lent I would always suggest reading the Bible. There are 35 days remaining until Good Friday, you could read a chapter a day of the Gospel of John, then Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

If you'd like an easier suggestion, between Good Friday and Easter, you could watch the film version ***The Gospel of John*** from 2003. It is a 3-hour acted out narration of John's Gospel, and it is available for free on Youtube.

Around the church we have several activities to deepen our faith during Lent as well. Every Thursday during Lent, different downtown churches are hosting Lenten lunches at 12:00pm. This is a chance to connect with some of the neighbouring Christian churches with food and fellowship. We have our Saturday Faith Formation activities, specifically, on March 11th we are invited to join our friends at McKillop United Church. They have invited Rev. Tony Snow, the Indigenous Minister for Chinook Winds Regional Council, to lead a blanket exercise. If you have not participated in a blanket exercise, I would commend this event to you.

During Holy Week, Southminster will be hosting a joint Maundy Thursday service (April 6), and this year's Good Friday will be hosted by McKillop. I would **highly** commend the Holy Week services to you, especially Good Friday. In the entire year, if you only go to one event of the church outside of a Sunday morning, my hope is that it would be the Good Friday service. There is no Easter without Good Friday.

Blessings to you for a holy Lent, may you find meaning and connection to God in this season.

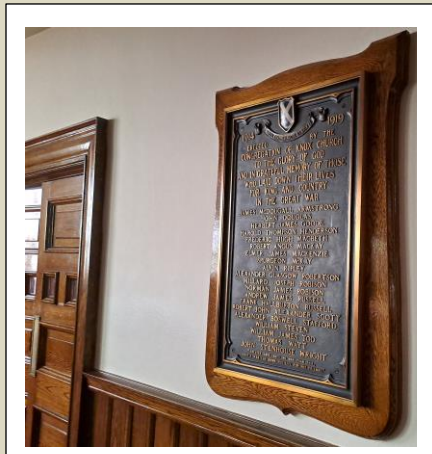


- Rev. Taylor

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

The ones who served

Last November you may have seen the military banners on the light posts in front of the church. They and others hung around town commemorate the lives and sacrifice of men and women in wartime.



At the back of the sanctuary there is a good-sized plaque with the names of Knox Presbyterian Church men who gave their lives in World War One. This plaque was hung in the Knox Presbyterian Church and came to us in the late 1930s.

As one of my projects, I am gathering names of men and women who went to war from Wesley Methodist Church. There is a roster of seventeen names from the Wesley Methodist Church ledger. Going forth in time to the Second World War and the Korean Conflict, their names should be displayed, too.

To date, I have gathered the names of men and women – Southminster Church members - who have served in the military, **but I need your help:**

If you have or had a **family member** who served either in **2nd World War or Korea**, please send me their names to be compiled into a list and be mounted on a plaque setting.

We are hoping to have this completed for *Remembrance Day 2023*. Their military information will be kept in a file in the church archives.

I will need the following:

- NAME
- BIRTH & DEATH dates [if applicable]
- RANK
- COMPANY
- WHERE STATIONED, WHERE SERVED
- YEARS SERVED
- A PORTRAIT in uniform if possible

You can contact me directly at trishmus@shaw.ca or give Taina the information to pass along.
Thank you for your assistance.

Trish Purkis
Church Archivist



Amy and work in progress in February

Thank you, Amy!

Do you know the stories behind 'Southminster Saints' Agnes and Ernie? Our resident artist Amy Dodic crafted these life-like dolls many years ago to honour everything Agnes and Ernie had done for the congregation and the people of Lethbridge.

Over the years, however, Agnes' glasses went missing and dust started to settle on their clothing. In order to protect the precious figurines, Amy decided to build a frame and cover the cubbies with glass. This proved to be quite the challenge with the curved walls!

But Amy found a way to work around it all as she built the frames from "mud"... It took her seven days but the end result is wonderful. We are so lucky to have you in our midst!



Ernie Malacko

Ernie was one of the most optimistic men ever known. He was always happy and made others happy, too. He never left home without some hard candy in his pocket. He'd greet a child with an open hand and a kind word.

Ernie was a long-time Pastoral Care Visitor for Southminster. But, he also made a practise of dropping in at the hospital and leaving a long train of laughing patients all the way down the hall.

Agnes Short

Agnes was the daughter of a fireman and was consequently raised in Firehall number 2.

She trained as a nurse in Calgary, then returned to Lethbridge to work at the Galt Hospital and later for school district no. 51. Eventually, she was employed by the Health Unit. Many citizens remember her giving them their polio vaccination in some capacity as a nurse; she worked in Lethbridge from 1939-1980. She was also involved in many community organizations, eventually earning the YWCA's Woman of Distinction award.

Here at Southminster, we remember her as a long-serving Elder. She was famous for saying "It is a pleasure to serve". She was always taking care of someone, right to the time of her death.





Canoe Believe It ???!

Canoe hold a broom over your head with both hands? Canoe then reach out in front of you, bend one knee and rotate until the working end of the broom touches the floor?

Canoe breathe deeply in and slowly let it out?

Canoe Paddle a Dragon Boat ?

Absolutely !!!

Canoe commit to the weekend of June 24 & 25,2023 and 2 - 4 practice sessions in May & June?

Holy Ship !! We are a crew !! Join Us. Feel the Excitement. Feel the Encouragement. Feel the Fun and Fellowship. Feel the Passion. Feel the muscles you didn't know you had.

Contact Lori: Holyship22@gmail.com or 403-393-1153

No Bible Study in March

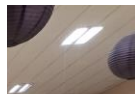
Next Bible Study with Rev. Tad will be on Saturday, April 15.

The group has agreed to pick "Death in the Bible" as the theme for the April Bible Study.

Why does the Bible term death as the result of rebellion against God though death is natural? All life forms die.

We hope everyone will find their own meaningful reflections during Lent, while Rev. Tad takes this well-deserved break!

Rev. Taylor has some good suggestions in his "Minister's Message" on the front page.



Lenten Lunches in 2023

Lenten lunches are back! Everyone is welcome to join and share a meal with our neighbours.

The following Thursday **Lenten Lunches** at noon are still coming up in March:

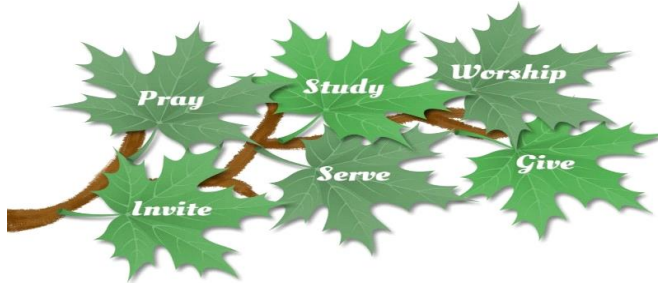
Date	hosted by
March 2	Southminster United
March 9	Lethbridge Mennonite
March 16	St. Andrew's Presbyterian
March 23	St. Augustine's Anglican

We hosted on the first 2023 Lenten lunch on Thursday, March 2. Once again, you delivered a great selection of soups for folks from many surrounding churches, as well as our own members, to enjoy. A special thank you to Joan Smith for organizing the volunteers. For everyone who brought soup, buns, and cookies - **Thank you for your contribution!**

End of January 2023 Financial Figures

- by Lori O’Leary, a
March-ing treasurer

2023		YTD	YTD	5	Budget	
<i>Southminster United Church</i>	Jan-23	Average per week	Average per day	2023 Budget	Budget per week	Budget Daily
Congregational Collections	9,578	1,916	274	162,500	3,125	446
Designated Recoveries	834	167	24	24,100	463	66
Rentals & Other Income	5,093	1,019	146	165,000	3,173	453
Total Funds In	15,505	3,101	443	351,600	6,762	966
Staffing Costs	16,362	3,272	467	228,413	4,393	628
Operating Costs (Office etc)	3,154	631	90	46,270	890	127
Facility Upgrades	358	72	10	12,000	231	33
Building Upkeep	214	72	10	20,000	385	55
Utilities	6,143	1,229	176	40,000	769	110
Committees	400	80	11	18,625	358	51
Total Expenses	26,631	5,355	765	365,308	7,025	1,004
Current Net	(11,127)	(2,254)	(322)	(13,708)	(264)	(38)



March Forth . . . Spring is Coming and the leaves will soon be sprouting in *God’s Gardens* - in your yard and in the streets. WE hope your *Stewardship Leaves* are also sprouting in your Heart of *Good Intentions*. Seeds for your Spiritual Growth are planted at Southminster in many ways, in many opportunities, by many people – groups and individuals – **Every Day!**

Seeds need nurturing – tender loving care –some *Sun* and some *Rain* - some **Son** and some *Sadness*. Here at Southminster, our leadership, our membership, try to meet the needs of all the leaves on our Church Family tree. WE Invite you to share your ideas of how to address some branches that have slowed or stunted buds. We hope to hear new – or re-newed ideas for functions, events, classes or activities to host or provide in some way.


We don’t want to *Leaf* anyone behind or in stress. Please *Help Us Find A Way*.

- Saturdays at 10:30 (SATT) program in March**
- March 4 Southminster Breakfast (at 9am)
 - March 11 Blanket Exercise with Tony Snow at McKillop (at 11am)
 - March 18 Movie Club chat on “Mambo Italiano” (available on Prime Video)
 - March 25 Book Sale Day

E-MAIL AND TELEPHONE FRAUD ALERT!

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DIFFERENT E-MAIL AND PHONE SCAMS LATELY WHERE THE CRIMINALS CLAIM TO BE SOMEONE FROM THE CHURCH. IF ANYONE RECEIVES AN UNUSUAL MESSAGE **ASKING FOR GIFT CARDS OR MONEY**, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY.

INSTEAD, **YOU CAN FORWARD THE EMAIL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE** AND WE CAN VERIFY IF IT WAS SENT BY US OR NOT.



A Note of Thanks

To my Southminster family,

I have been appreciative of the love and support I have received from my faith community at Southminster since Bob was hospitalized in January. I am grateful for this foundation of caring that buoys me up each day. We are hoping for Bob's recovery, and we both want to thank you for your acts of love and support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Clay



Southminster Book Sale returns on March 24-25

Donations of any gently used books, puzzles and games will be happily accepted in the office any time between now and March 24.

This annual event is a popular way to recycle items – and a great place to find bargain books.

See you there!



Upcoming Southminster Events

Mar 4	Men's Club Breakfast
Mar 15	South Alberta Cluster meeting
Mar 24-25	Book Sale in Southminster Hall
Apr 7	Maundy Thursday at 7pm in the Chapel
Apr 21	110th Anniversary Dinner
Apr 23	Congregational Meeting
May 13	Men's Club Breakfast
May 28	Ordination of Carol Many Chief (to be conf.)
Jun 4	New Member Sunday



110th Anniversary Dinner on Friday, April 21

The congregation of Southminster will be celebrating 110 years in this building with a "Dinner on Danube" themed supper in Southminster Hall. The Lethbridge College's Culinary program will cater the food, including perogies, cabbage rolls, pork chops, roasted vegetables and, of course, decadent desserts! Music from the region is also on the menu!

Tickets \$25/person will go on sale in late March.

Mark your calendars!

Canyon Church Camp News

Canyon Church Camp would like to invite you to their **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held on **Zoom on March 7 at 7pm**. **We are starting the camp rebuild this spring** and would really appreciate **support from our church family**. This could come in the form of volunteering your time on our board, on one of our sub-committees (fundraising, community engagement, rebuild), or as a feet-on-the-ground worker when we need extra labour. You can also help by making a financial donation at the church office specifying it is for Canyon Camp, donate by e-transfer to campcanyon@gmail.com or on our website. All donations over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt.

If you would like to attend the AGM, please send an email to Christina at whittmirefamily@gmail.com, or call the Southminster office and we will send a link to you for the meeting, as well as the camp annual report. I would love to see **more Southminster faces at the meeting!** Camp is such a special place, and we want to get it up and running as quickly as we can.