

# Southminster United Church

6801 Hagar Ave. Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 5M5 905-354-2125 [www.southminsterunited.com](http://www.southminsterunited.com)

“I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE”

LUKE 2:10

## Colours of the Season.

Do you have a favourite colour? Do you like several colours? Can you see colours as others see them, do you see them differently or perhaps not at all? Whatever the case may be, you are invited to explore and experience the colours of the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Whether you are already part of this faith

community and attend regularly or just once in a while, whether you are curious and just starting on your faith journey, whether you have questions or doubts, whether you have never ventured through the church doors even once in your life...YOU ARE WELCOME!

Come and See the Colour of Hope

Come and Hear the Colour of Peace

Come and Touch the Colour of Joy

Come and Feel the Colour of Love

Come and Experience What Christmas is all about.

Experience the anticipation, the risk, and the reward that comes with waiting for the Christ Child. You will not be alone – we are all waiting together.

Come just as you are! Jeans, suit, sweat pants. PJ's. It doesn't matter what you wear, where you come from or where you think you're headed. Come and be part of this messy faith family that we call Southminster United Church.

Together we share the joys and celebrations of the seasons, as well as the struggles and heartaches that come our way. Together we reach out to the world with compassion, we reach into ourselves to draw upon our various gifts and talents, and we reach up to the Holy One, who has brought us together with a purpose and a plan.

There's no doubt we're a colourful bunch. We make mistakes, we get some things right, we do our best with what we have, we guide what we do by keeping centered on Christ, knowing that God is with us every step of the way. We are Not Alone.

Blessings of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love be with you,

Rev. Sherry Fugard

## **Advent / Christmas Newsletter**

### **Southminster Advent/Christmas Services**

Sunday, December 3: Pelham Children's' Choir at 10:30am

Sunday December 10: White Gift Service at 10:30am

Sunday, December 17: Worship Service at 10:30am

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Service at 10:30am

Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Communion Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 31: New Years' Service at 10:30am

#### **White Gift Sunday – December 10, 2017**

The tradition of the White Gift Sunday is credited to the wife of a Methodist minister in 1904 in Ohio. It is said that she knew of a Chinese legend in which people would bring a gift to their leader on his birthday. The gifts were all wrapped in white in order to emphasize the love of the people and the intent of the gift, not the size or value of it.

The minister's wife and his daughters asked their congregation to bring a gift wrapped in white for their king, Jesus. These were packages of food, the kind of thing that most people on the congregation could afford to bring that could be put to good use by others. They were Christmas gifts of love to be distributed to people in need in their community.

This idea which began in response to a very local need spread around the Christian world in the early 1900's and continues to be celebrated in many protestant churches today.

Bringing the gifts on White Gift Sunday is an example of our Christian faith in action. There is no glory given to the giver, and there is no assessment of the gift. Each is a gift given in the spirit of love and in the name of Jesus, who is God's own gift to the world.

Please consider bringing a gift on (or before) December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Southminster Community Thrift Shop

The Southminster Community Thrift Store is open to the public each Wednesday 10:30 – 1:30. The store is operated by both church and community volunteers, and we work in partnership with some of our local community agencies such as the YWCA and Project Share. We offer gently used clothing for men, women and children, as well as a large variety of donated household items and small appliances/furniture at very affordable prices.

During shopping hours, you can enjoy complimentary treats, tea, coffee and cold beverages. Community lunch is also served each week from 11:30 – 12:30. We welcome you to join us for a meal of soup and sandwiches and other tasty lunch items.

Donations to the store are always needed and are gratefully accepted each week during our church office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9:00am and 12:00pm.

Volunteers are always welcome! There are a variety of ways you can help in our store or kitchen. Please don't hesitate to call our office if you'd like to offer some time or talent.

**Please note: The last day of operation of the Thrift Shop before we close for the Christmas Season will be Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>**

### Southminster Community Drop-in Centre

The Drop-in Centre is open every Wednesday from 1:30pm-3:30pm. There is never a cost to attend and we welcome all members of our neighbouring and wider community.

Our Centre is the place to visit if you enjoy meeting people and spending some time where you're welcomed with a smile and can just come as you are. It's a place where you can enjoy some of the planned activities, or just want to engage in some interesting conversation over a cup of tea or coffee. We have a lending library with plenty of books and magazines and you are welcome to find a quiet spot to just relax and enjoy one. Although we have scheduled activities each week, we encourage people to come and enjoy their time with us in a way they feel comfortable.

A featured speaker presents a topic of interest generally on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Other weeks, you can find us playing Bingo, working on some instruction-lead crafts (usually the 3rd Wednesday each month), playing cards, board games and/or word games, or celebrating a holiday with some theme-related fun. Ladies from our knitting and crocheting group share space with us on the 2nd Wednesday each month. Others who enjoy doing so, or would like to learn, are welcome to join them.

Please come and see what the Drop-in Centre is all about. Our schedule of activities will be posted each month throughout the church as well as on our website at [www.southminsterunited.com](http://www.southminsterunited.com) under the heading "Upcoming", and on our Facebook page.

If needed, you can call the church during office hours for further information. Please be sure to ask about our volunteer opportunities, and if you have a talent or topic of interest you'd like to share with us, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

**NOTE: The last day for the Drop-in before it closes in celebration of the Christmas Season will be December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen on Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at the regularly scheduled time.**

### Community Gardens

Our Garden plots total 32 with 20 being on existing space and 12 having been built on greenspace off the parking lot. We have two gardens open with possibly another 2 or 3 openings pending the existing owner's decision. If you are interested in a garden for a low price of \$15 or know someone who is, please have them call me at 905-357-5063.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Chris Clark

Garden Manager

### United Church Women

December's **UCW** meeting will be a Potluck and Gift Exchange (\$10.00 - \$15.00 value) to be held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. 5100 Dorchester Rd.

### Highland Dance

Our highland dancers are joining with the Southminster family to donate toys for needy families once again. We are excited by this and enjoy the partnership to provide a better Christmas for families. We will once again be hosting our Robert Burns supper on January 20th. Tickets sold out early last year. If you are interested, please contact Jane Gouck at 905-295-6115. \$25 includes a 3 course meal, dram to toast the haggis, dancing and piping!

### Yoga For Fitness

Following the Festivities and fun of the Christmas Season and heading into the New Year tends to be the time when we begin to consider ways to renew our efforts to take care of ourselves and strive for better health. Yoga classes are a good way to start, or increase our flexibility (an important factor for balance) and to strengthen our muscles. Though yoga we also learn to relax by concentrating on our breath. Whether you are a seasoned yogi or brand new, Y.F.F.C. classes are gentle. You proceed at your own pace. Tuesdays at 1:00pm and Thursdays at 10:00pm. Drop in for a free class, just call ahead at 905-358-9927.

### Finance

As Advent quickly approaches, the year end is also in sight. There is still time to make a donation to benefit the Church with the added **benefit of reducing your income tax burden**. Your special gift can be directed to any of our ongoing projects, including Community Gardens, Kids' Kitchen Club, Sanctuary windows, roof replacement or general operating expenses of our Church. If you have any questions about how to direct your special gift, please speak with Liz (treasurer) or Joanne (secretary).

### ***Did You Know...?***

These are the community groups who use Southminster on a weekly basis

AA

Yoga (Tuesday & Thursday)

Healthy Safe & Strong (exercise for seniors)

Highland Dance

Niagara Prayer Centre

Pathfinders

### **Colours of the Season**

Please consider wearing a shirt, sweater, scarf or tie to worship in these colours if you already have them in your closet. *(no need to make new purchases)*

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> : Blue and/or White.

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> : Green and/or Brown.

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> : Red and/or pink (10:30am service)

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> : Purple and/or Gold (7 pm service)

**If we can be of any assistance to you with questions or concerns or if you are interested in rental space please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office at 905-354-2125 or by email at [secretary\\_southminster@cogeco.net](mailto:secretary_southminster@cogeco.net)**

*Please let us know if you do not wish to receive future updates/newsletters.*

**Rev Sherry Fugard-** [rev.sherry@cogeco.net](mailto:rev.sherry@cogeco.net)

**Joanne Hayes, Church Office-** [secretary\\_southminster@cogeco.net](mailto:secretary_southminster@cogeco.net)

**Eugene Oatley, Council Chair-** [council\\_southminster@cogeco.net](mailto:council_southminster@cogeco.net)

**Yvonne Hopkins, Choir Director** – [yeh34@outlook.com](mailto:yeh34@outlook.com)

