



Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

September 2026

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9am to 14pm
Closed Saturday/Sunday



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Email: smunited@shaw.ca
Webpage: southminsterunited.org

Find us on Facebook



Sunday Worship Services
10:30 a.m.
In person or live streamed on Facebook

Minister's Message

Three Months in Six Words

1. **Trust:** Thank you as a congregation for your trust in me to assist in leading worship and in offering pastoral care from June to August during Rev. Taylor's sabbatical. I am honoured also by your individual trust. I continue to trust and give thanks for God's presence always in all ways.
2. **Porous:** Members of the community phone here, come in here, and walk by here. I'm certain that some of the Holy Spirit that resides here rubs off onto them. The spaciousness of Christina and Taina from the church office, offering their time, ears and heart not only to *Southminsterites* but to countless others – is of deep value. I'm grateful their gifts flow to and fro.
3. **Direct:** Sometimes I become a bit like my mother – which can be a good thing – unless one is not used to being on the receiving end of bluntness. I apologize for the times that my bluntness may have felt rather sharp. Thank you for your grace.
4. **Human:** Not that I ever doubted, but the good news remains that we are very much a human congregation – part physical, emotional, and social pain mixed with the deep joy of caring connection, courageous faith, spontaneous hugs, and belly-laughs.
5. **Jesus:** The best news of *all* is that the risen Lord Jesus is present and obvious within this human mixture. Thanks be to God.
6. **Welcome:** *Welcome back, Rev. Taylor!*
You have been missed!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ruth



Rev. Ruth and husband Harold sharing a cake with the congregation at coffee hour after worship celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on June 28, 2026



Rev. Ruth leading Communion service on the June 28 Pride Sunday with Hilary and Hollis.



Rev. Taylor's message for September

I am happy to be returning after three months away on sabbatical. My wife, MiYeon, and I made a pilgrimage to the United Kingdom to connect with the Presbyterian and Methodist traditions that make up our United Church of Canada heritage. You'll find an additional article in this month's newsletter with details about what we did. *(pictured here in Westminster Abbey)*

September always brings a return to normal routines in our lives, and it is now different in the congregational life of our community of faith. We return back worship at Southminster on September 6 with the beginning of the liturgical Season of Creation and a celebration of Holy Communion. Then on the following Sunday, Sept 13, we will have our annual congregational barbecue at the Elks picnic shelter at the river-bottom beside Fort Whoop-Up. Thank you to the Men's Club for providing and grilling our meats. We are also very excited to welcome new members that Sunday, one of whom will be baptised in the river following the barbeque!

On September 20, Sunday School will resume. I offer a huge thanks to our Sunday School teachers: Amy Dodic, Gabrielle Dumont, and Jenny Bradshaw for their work for the most vital ministry of the congregation. YOUNited Youth programming will also resume shortly in the fall, keep an eye out for new events at: www.younitedyouth.ca

On Sunday September 20 we will also be covenanting with our new student minister at Southminster, Kathryn Kuppen. Kathryn will be doing a one-year placement at Southminster through the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, supervised by Rev. Glenda Wert.

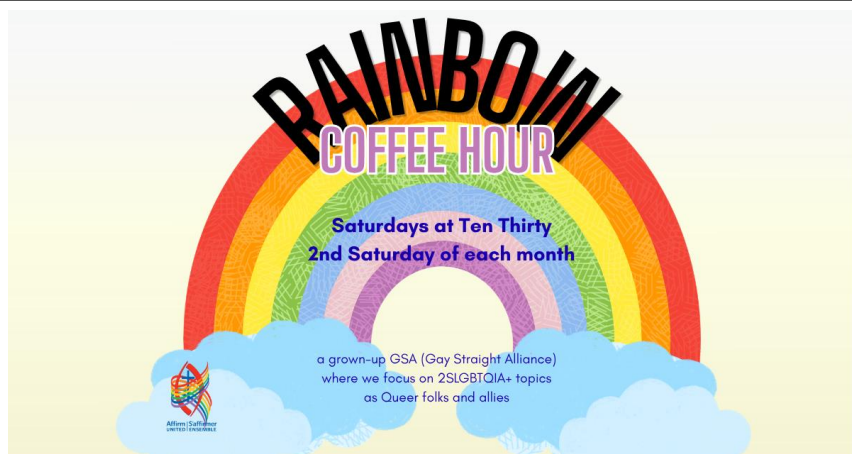
I will be away at the end of September to attend the wedding of my former roommate while I studied at St. Andrew's College, Mitchell Anderson. You may recall that Mitchell was the theme speaker when Southminster hosted the Chinook Winds AGM and was the preacher on the Sunday of the Celebration of Ministry. As a result, I will unfortunately miss the first Men's Club breakfast this fall, on Saturday, Sept 26 at 9:00am.

The next seven weeks will be a very contentious time for us in the province of Alberta, and let us all pray for peace within our society. The Chinook Winds Regional Council is preparing a referendum toolkit, to discuss the issues raised in the referendum through the lens of our Christian faith and ethics. We will be having a faith formation event this fall to have a respectful conversation of these issues using the Chinook Winds toolkit. More information will be available at a later date.

I am so honoured by you who choose to make Southminster a part of your life and your weekly routines. Praise God for all the places that bring meaning to our lives, and may we have harmonious relationships with the people we share those spaces with: co-workers, classmates, family, church members. As you settle into your routines this fall, I hope that you make time to enjoy what remains of the summer outdoors and connect with God's creation as we transition to the dormancy of winter.

God bless,

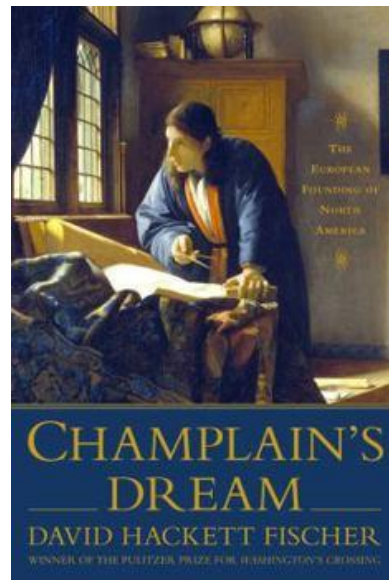
Rev. Taylor



Affirming Committee is introducing a grown-up GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) at SATT on the Second Sunday of each month.
First meeting at 10:30am on Saturday, September 12

It's time for a new book for our Tuesday Book Club!

The first book this fall will be
"Champlain's Dream"
by David Hackett Fischer.



The first meeting with this book will be on **Tuesday Sept. 15th at 4 pm** in the Southminster lounge. The group will discuss the Intro, and Chapters 1 and 2. Happy reading!

Zoom access will be available for those who are unable to attend in person. Please let Carol know if you want to join via Zoom at romses@shaw.ca



As we welcome fall into our life after summer, we invite all the women of the congregation to the

**100 Women Who Care
Event
Tuesday,
Sept 15. At 6:45pm**

in Southminster Hall.

– Melanie from CIS



Coffee and Conversation,
one of Southminster's most popular programs, continues weekly on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

Everyone is invited to come and join the conversation – the topics vary in this safe and loud (!) space.

Coffee is on the house.
See you there!

Sabbatical report - Rev. Taylor Croissant

From June 1 to August 31, I was granted a sabbatical after six years of service at Southminster. MiYeon and I decided we would use the opportunity to take a pilgrimage to the United Kingdom of Great Britain to connect with the United Church of Canada's spiritual heritage in our Methodist and Presbyterian roots.



We first visited London, staying in a hotel very close the location of John Wesley's famous Aldergate Street's conversion experience. The first Sunday we were there, we visited **Wesley Chapel**, the mother church of Methodism. We were very warmly welcomed, along with other Methodist pilgrims from Brazil, Taiwan, and Maryland in the United States. We were able to get a taste of their congregational life as well as a baptism was being celebrated that Sunday. It is very apparent for Wesley Chapel that Methodism is not a British religion, it is very much an African and Asian religion. We also saw all of the other famous sites of London: Westminster Abbey (MiYeon's favourite), The British Museum (Taylor's favourite), Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London, Harrod's, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Trafalgar Square and The National Gallery, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

We then visited Belfast in Northern Ireland, MiYeon's cousin SeoYoung is a professor at a theological college there. Of all the places we visited I had the greatest impression from Northern Ireland.

We then hoped over to Scotland, visiting Edinburgh. There we visited the High Kirk of Presbyterianism, **St. Giles' Cathedral**. (see right) It was also interesting to visit the house of John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism, which is just down the hill on the Royal Mile from St. Giles'.



MiYeon and I also went to South Korea following our travels in the United Kingdom. I had not been back to visit my in-laws since before the Covid-19 pandemic. MiYeon and I were honoured to worship at **Sumdol Hyanglin** Presbyterian Church while in Seoul, the only LGBTQ Affirming church in all of South Korea. I could not help but connect this with our experiences in Scotland, and to think of John Knox and our Reformed spiritual ancestors whose faith meant so much to them that they moved as religious refugees to Geneva just to have the freedom to worship in the way they felt was right. Sumdol Hyanglin is just like that for Queer Christians in South Korea, who move to Seoul just to have the freedom to be queer and to be Christian.

The unfortunate story of my sabbatical is that I was sick for most of it, I was battling illness in the UK, and South Korea, and another two weeks back in Canada. As a result, many of my grand plans for this sabbatical were derailed. But I have come to peace with that, I have suffered an unusual number of injuries in the past six years since coming to Lethbridge, so taking a complete rest was probably what I needed. Unfortunately, I still did not heed my own advice, as I fell while hiking in Waterton this week, and sprained my ankle.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to have this rest during sabbatical and I am looking forward to returning back to the office in September.

I wish to thank Rev. Ruth who covered my absence. What a gift she is to all of us at Southminster.

Yours in Christ, **Rev. Taylor**

Archives Corner by Trish Purkis

ARTIFACTS HOUSED IN THE ARCHIVES CUPBOARDS

Among the archives we have housed in the Board Room cupboards, there is a collection of *artifacts*. These historical objects represent the church's history much like the documents, committee meetings, workshop material, ministers and choir leaders' backgrounds and photographs do. Here is a sample.



There are China plates embossed with two different church images and two cups embossed with the United Church crest. They were remembrances of past anniversaries.



Wrapped in white tissue paper are two trowels used for the laying of cornerstones. One is for Knox Church in 1908 and presented to Mrs. McKillop the wife of Rev. Charles McKillop. The second one is engraved with the words 'Presented to W. S. Galbraith M D C M [Latin for Doctor of Medicine & Master of Surgery] 1913'. Dr Galbraith was among a committee of men who assisted in the laying our church building's cornerstone.



There is a blue cup with the words 'Ecumenical Decade Church in Solidarity with women' embossed on the outside. The council was formed by Christian Women across Canada for the years 1988-1998 with the purpose to empower women to challenge structures and eliminate discrimination. A few women of our church attended.

The AOTS [As One That Serves] Men's Club was formed in 1953 and disbanded sometime in the late seventies or early 1980s. There is a wooden gavel presented to the club from past member Fred Holberton. No significance was recorded as to why the gavel was chosen as a gift.



Early Presbytery Conferences had a youth component who presented One-Act Plays during conference week. There is a replica trophy made of copper with the words "Alberta Conference United Church Young People Festival of Drama Award for best one-act play 1955."

There are several boxes of lantern slides depicting various hymns and bible verses. These slides were used in the early days of church as a way to share words and music before hymn books became the norm.



By Trish Purkis, church archivist

Green thumb in action at Southminster



Next time when you come to church, take a moment to appreciate the flower beds and our newly established green lawn! Thank you to Amy Dodic for spreading her magic and countless hours watering all summer long. Well done!



Southminster Recreational Pickleball session every Monday at 4pm. We have a very active small group of players, but definitely have room for more. **Come out and try it, it's free and all equipment is provided.**

Peace at Lunch at the Martha Retreat Centre on Wednesday August 26. Some Southminster folks enjoyed a homemade lunch on the beautiful grounds of the centre. For more of their programming, go to www.martharetreatcentre.ca



Ruth and Harold's discussion group The Scratching Post resumes September 26 10:30 - 11:30 am

The Scratching post is a discussion / study group where people gather to reflect on Biblical and topical themes of the day or on those items where we are itching to engage in some reflection with others.

September's gathering will take place on **Saturday the 26th at 10:30 am in the Buchanan Chapel.**

Our topic will be kindled by an article by Troy Watson entitled: "*Am I Angry Enough?*" Surely anger is not something which is in short supply. Or is it? Come out and chill with us.

- Harold Schilk

Fit for Life

Friday morning fitness class for all ages and fitness levels at **10am** in Southminster Hall.

All equipment provided. Suggested donation \$5.

Our first fall class will be on

Friday September 11



As we get into the month of September, it's time to start thinking about the Christmas Tea and Bazaar. (It is only 12 weeks away...)

Here's the first heads-up!

UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar

Saturday November 21

*** 2-4 pm *** \$15 ***

Tea with fancy sandwiches and decadent desserts Baking, Crafts, Jewellery, and Christmas Surprises

Donations for the craft table, jewellery and Christmas Surprises can be dropped off at the church any time.

Any questions, contact
Joyce Boisvenue (403-359-9323) or
Carol Romses (403-327-1345)

Thanks!

Ushers and Greeters Workshop

We return to our own Sanctuary on **September 6** after the joint summer services.

This will be a good day to run a quick "Ushers and Greeters Workshop" to make sure we follow the same simple guidelines when performing these duties.

Following the worship, we invite **at least one person from every pod**, preferably the leader, to meet in the Narthex for a brief refresher on the ushering and collection duties, etc.

For more information please contact Wanda (403.382.8391) or Joan (403.328.4771).



Canyon Church Camp update



*Closing ceremonies for the Youth Adventure camp
on August 14, 2026*

Our first summer back was a success! Our largest camp had 23 campers, which was smaller than we had hoped, but the energy was amazing. We ran all 6 weeks of youth camps and received rave reviews from those that attended. Thanks to all our volunteers for countless hours of work and fun times, including our very own Amy Dodic who spent the very first week at camp as the craft leader. Also, a special thank you to the Men's Club and Toni Z. who donated money to allow Southminster to cover part of the registration fees for 12 youth to go to camp.

We will wind up the season with **2 weekend adult camps – Women's Camp on Sept. 11-13, and Alumni Camp on Sept. 25-27**. There is still room in both camps, so register today at www.campcanyon.ca I'll be attending the Women's Camp, so come join me!

We will be closing up the camp at the end of September or early October, and bodies are always needed. I will keep you posted on how you can help.

Thank you for all of your support as we rose from the ashes to return to camp!

Christina Whittmire, Chair, Canyon Church Camp Board



September 2026 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship at Southminster	 Office Closed	1 7-9:30pm Playgoers (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch)	2 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9:30pm Playgoers (UH) 5-8pm Public Interest Alberta (SMH)	3 10:00-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 6:30pm Church Council (L) 7-9:30pm Playgoers (UH)	4 8pm-1:30am Patel (SMH)	5 12-4pm Playgoers (UH)
6 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship at Southminster	7 	8 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:30-8pm Ethel (BR) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9:30pm New Music Lab (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	9 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Property Committee (L) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Vox Musica (BR) 7-9pm Playgoers (SMH) 7-8 Yoga (UH)	10 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:00-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	11 9-11 Firefighters' Memorial (S) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH)	12 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10:30 SATT - Rainbow Coffee Hour (L) 12-4pm Playgoers (UH)
13 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) Picnic at Elks compound after worship 	14 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 4:15pm-6pm SUCH Pickleball (SMH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	15 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5pm 100 Women Who Care (SMH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	16 9-11am Sportball (UH) 5pm Worship and Music Committee (L) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Playgoers (SMH) 7-8 Yoga (UH)	17 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:00-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 5pm Symphony (BR) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	18 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 2-6pm Beth Nixon (SMH)	19 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 9am-4pm Council Retreat (SMH, K, L) 12-4pm Playgoers (UH)
20 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) Sunday School begins! 4-9pm Patel (SMH)	21 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:15pm-6pm SUCH Pickleball (SMH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	22 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9:30pm New Music Lab (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	23 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-5:30pm Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Playgoers (SMH) 7-8 Yoga (UH)	24 9-11am Sportball (UH) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 10:00-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH) 7-9:30pm New Music Lab (SMH)	25 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	26 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 9am Men's Club Breakfast (L) 10:30am SATT with Harold (Ch) 12-4pm Playgoers (UH)
27 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) Truth and Reconciliation Sunday led by Kathryn Kuppam	28 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:15pm-6pm SUCH Pickleball (SMH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	29 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4pm Property Comm. (Ch) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-8pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	30 9-11am Sportball (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Playgoers (SMH) 7-8 Yoga (UH)			Southminster Hall (SMH) Sanctuary (S) Upper Hall (UH) Lounge (L) Wesley Room (W) Chapel (Ch) Board Room (BR) Kitchen (K)