



Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

December 2025

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9am to 4pm



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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:

Just a week ago there was no snow on the ground, and now it is certainly “looking a lot like Christmas.” All of St. Nicholas’ elves were busy this week at Southminster with decorating for Advent and Christmas, and my thanks to all of them. We will be welcoming THOUSANDS of people into our building this month for various concerts, and I know our décor brings out the joy of the season.



The liturgical **season of Advent** is a penitential period of preparation for the feast of the Nativity. Very few Christians in North America fast during Advent these days, but I would like to invite you into one spiritual discipline this season to avoid getting wrapped up in the commercialization of this holy season. I would like to encourage you to read one chapter from the Gospel of Luke over Advent, one for each of the 24 days. In January, I will be leading four sessions of Bible study for Saturdays-at-Ten-Thirty to dive deeper into Luke’s gospel: January 3, 10, 17, 24.

Southminster has a few other special activities planned over Advent. On Saturday, **December 6**, the **Men’s Club** is inviting the **whole congregation to join them for a Christmas Brunch** at 10:30am. We’ll enjoy some Eggs Benedict and a presentation from Dr. Bill Ramp. We enjoyed him so much in the spring that we decided to invite him back to talk to us again.

The United Church Women (UCW) of the congregation are having a **downtown day, Saturday, Dec 13**. They are meeting for coffee at Bread, Milk & Honey at 10:00am, followed by browsing the downtown shops, and meeting again for lunch at Streetside Eatery at 1:00pm.

On **Friday, December 19**, we are going to try something new, a **Christmas Family Fun Night!** We will have carol singing, crafting, board games, cookies, and a Christmas movie. **EVERYONE** is invited to come, all ages of our Southminster family!

For those whose Christmas may not be so merry this year due to bereavement, job loss, illness, or any other reason, I would encourage you to participate in our **Longest Night** service this year, **Sunday, December 21** at 7:00pm in the chapel.

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And of course, our time of watching and waiting in Advent will conclude with our **Christmas Candlelight service**, Wednesday, **December 24** at 7:00pm. The second holiest day of the Christian calendar! Southminster excels in full pageantry that the occasion deserves, and I am most grateful for everyone who makes Southminster a part of their Christmas celebrations.

In the hustle and bustle of the season, the end of year parties, the winter driving, the snow shoveling, the shopping and gift wrapping, the navigation of family dynamics, and the ever-present temptation to make poor dietary choices, may the humble holiness of an infant in a manger break through to reveal, if only briefly, the very face of the incarnate God.

From both MiYeon and I, Merry Christmas.

– Rev. Taylor

Discipleship pods

December brings in a new **Discipleship pod**: *Donna & Bruce Tait, The Winters family and Debbie & Graham Argyle*

The December pod concludes our first full year of the “pod system”. The monthly pods have showed the power of team work: We have seen strangers become friends, newcomers feel like they belong, and older folks teach the younger ones the ropes of the Coffee hour!

In addition, we have had ushers, readers, coffee hour hosts every week. **For this, we in the office are profoundly grateful.**

Thank you to Corinne Steele and Janice Ross for bringing this novel idea to Southminster, and to everyone who has supported and participated in the pods!

We look forward to continuing this great practice in 2026!



Tad Talks in 2025-2026 - Bible Study with Rev. Tad Mitsui

Rev. Tad's Bible Study will be on a holiday break in December. In January, they will join Rev. Taylor's Bible Study discussing Luke's gospel.

Joyce & Carol would like to thank everyone once again for all your help in making the UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar such a success this year.

We made about \$3,800.00. See you next year.



Pastoral Care would like to extend an offer of prayer to anyone who may need it through the Season of Advent.

The members of **Healing Pathway Canada** (members of our congregation) are asking if you or someone in your family would like to be held in pray, you can be put on the prayer list. This is the time of year that we mourn the loss of loved ones, maybe have a friend or neighbour battling health issues or you are just feeling blue.

Prayer is a wonderful way to help.

Just call Cathy Hahn 403-381-4369 or Brenda Albrecht 403-393-7780

From all of us with the Pastoral Care Committee we wish you Joy, Peace, Hope and Love !



Office hours in December

December 1 – 23
9am to 4pm

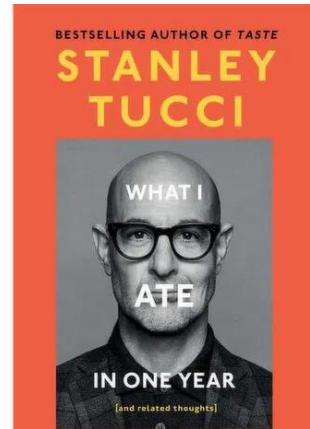
December 24
9am to 12 noon

December 25 – January 1, 2026
Office closed

Merry Christmas to all!
From Taina and Christina

Tuesday Book Club update

We are taking a break and will start again on Tuesday, January 13th, when we will discuss **“What I Ate in One Year” by Stanley Tucci.** Seems fitting right after the Holidays!



CHRISTMAS AT SOUTHMISTER UNITED CHURCH

**Celebrate the Season of
Hope, Peace, Love & Joy**

Sundays in Advent
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 at 10:30am

Longest Night Service
A quiet, reflective service for those carrying grief, worry or weariness this time of year
Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wed. Dec. 24 at 7pm

Carols, Scripture, and the lighting of candles as we welcome Christ's birth.

All are warmly welcome!

Year in review - Wesley United Church in 1925

Jan. 27 - The Wesley Ladies contributed their wares to the church at a social evening for the choir and Sunday School Orchestra which was held in Wesley Hall. Husbands and wives of the married members were cordially invited.

Feb. 25 - The WMS meeting was held in the ladies' parlor in Wesley Church. A lifetime membership was bestowed on Mrs. T. Hardy. Her valuable work for the society over the years was much appreciated.

March 7 - This date marked the last anniversary of Wesley Church as part of the Methodist Church of Canada. President Reverend A. D. Richard of Calgary was the special preacher. The audience heard about the history of Methodism as it pertained to Southern Alberta. The choir prepared special music for the event.

April 30 - The Festival Grand Concert took place in Wesley Church Friday night. The program included highlights from the winning categories in voice and piano. The Junior Choir, and the United Church senior choir of Wesley United Church were among the contestants.

May - The last session of the Lethbridge and District of Methodist Church convened in Wesley Hall. Present were ministers and lay people from the ten circuits and missions throughout the south of the province. The address was given by Reverend Bob Pearson B.A. who spoke on 'the Ministry as seen by the outsider'.

June 10 - A mid week service was held in Wesley, one of the three churches who became united. Reverend William Buchanan, retired Methodist minister was the special speaker.

July 12 - The morning service sermon was entitled 'The contribution of the Presbyterian Church to the United Church of Canada'. It was heard at the joint services of Presbyterian and Wesley congregations. At the evening service a church parade was held by the Loyal Orange Lodge on the anniversary of the Battle of Boyne, Ireland 1690.

Aug. 29 - Former pastor of the Knox Church Reverend Dr. Captain DeNoon now residing in Regina, spoke at the evening service at Wesley United.

Sep. 28 - The first Presbytery meeting of United Church of Canada was held. Speakers were Dr. Tuttle of Trinity Theological College Edmonton and Reverend Dr. George Hauson of Montreal. Combined choirs Wesley, Knox and North Lethbridge supplied the music.

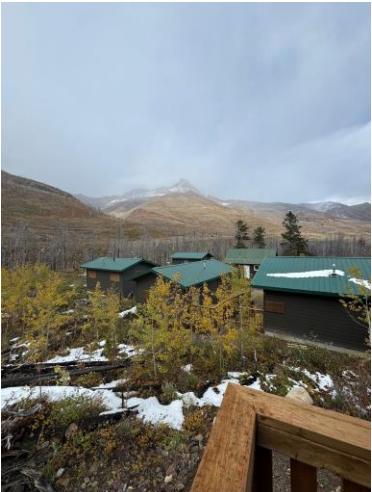
Oct. 22 - Wesley Church Choir rendered selections from Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at the Sunday evening service.

Nov. 16 - Sale of homemade mincemeat by the Mrs. W. A. Moore section of the Ladies Aid, was a success. The C.G.I.T. Canadian Girls In Training have organized three groups with a fourth pending. Leaders are: Miss Chisholm, Mrs. T. Dunham, Miss Agnes Davidson and Miss Shillington.

Dec. 30 - The Rhondda Welsh Male Singers appeared in Wesley Church. They are under the auspices of the B.P. O. E. #37. Seating reserved for the local Welsh Society.



Canyon Church Camp – December 2025



Camp is all closed up for the season, and we are getting **ready to open in the spring** of 2026! We are excited to be running a full slate of youth camps as well as 3 family camp weekends, one alumni weekend, and a women's camp weekend. The board of directors had to do some estimating to set the prices and make a budget for next year. The Kenow fire was in 2017, so it has been a long time since we had a “regular” summer! With that in mind, we are launching our **Camp Sustainer Campaign**. This is a United Church Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) program, the same as Southminster's.

Having camp supporters donate monthly will

allow us to have reliable income for camp operations. All donations are always welcome. With this campaign a donation of at least \$1/day (or \$30/month) will also earn you a weather-proof CCC sticker. Our goal is to have 50 people sign up, which would guarantee us an income of \$18,000/year.

Another idea to support camp is to gift a child in your life a week at camp this summer. That would be a great Christmas gift! An average week at our youth camp will cost \$425/camper, with the beginner camp (Discovery Camp) costing \$300, and the Senior Teen (Youth Adventure) camp \$450. See below for the complete summer schedule!

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at info@campcanyon.ca or by phone at 403-308-4153.

Christina Whittmire

President, Canyon Church Camp board of directors

2026 SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

- Explorer Camp 1: July 5-10 (Ages 8-11)
- Explorer Camp 2: July 12-17 (Ages 10-12)
- Explorer Camp 3 July 19- 24 (Ages 12-14)
- Discovery Camp: Aug 4-7 (Ages 6-9)
- Youth Adventure Camp: Aug 9-14 (Ages 13-15)
- Youth Adventure Multi-Faith Camp: Aug 16-21 (Ages 14-19)

OTHER 2026 DATES

- Family Camp: June 19-21
- Grand Opening: July 4
- Family Camp: July 17-19
- Family Camp: Aug 7-9
- Womens Retreat: Sep 18-20
- Alumni Weekend: Sep 25-27

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.CAMPYANON.CA

WE CAN HARDLY WAIT TO
WELCOME SO MANY
SMILING FACES!
STAY TUNED FOR
REGISTRATION DATES!

Southminster is now
on Instagram!

Follow us:
[@southminster.yql](https://www.instagram.com/southminster.yql)



Southminster has joined Instagram!
You can find us there at our new
page, [@southminster.yql](https://www.instagram.com/southminster.yql)
(<https://www.instagram.com/southminster.yql>)

We look forward to using the new
platform to connect with members
of the congregation and the
community via Instagram. It will be a
good addition to our social media
presence, in addition to our
Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterUnited/>

Christmas Family

Fun Night

Friday, Dec. 19 @6:30 pm

in Southminster Hall!

We will have carol
singing, crafting,
board games,
cookies, and
a Christmas movie



Christmas concerts at Southminster in 2025

Friday, November 28 @ 7:30pm

Vox Musica and Tutti Corda present: *LIGHT ETERNAL!*

Sunday, November 30 @ 6pm

It's About Music Society presents: *Christmas Concert*, conducted by Bob George

Wednesday, December 3 @ 8pm

Geomatic Attic presents: Good Lovelies – *Christmas Show*

Friday, December 5 @ 7pm

Ventus Women's Choir presents:

Evening Light with Special Guests – Cantrice Women's Ensemble

Saturday, December 6 @ 7 pm

Lethbridge Community Brass Band, conductor Ken Rogers present:

Brass and Bells for Christmas, feat. Festival Ringers Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 7 @ 7pm

Aurora Choral Lethbridge, director Dr. Janet Youngdahl, present:

Underneath the Stars

Friday, December 12 @7pm

Lethbridge Carol Festival by Vox Musica Choral Society

Sounds of the Season

Saturday, December 13 @7pm

Lethbridge Community Band presents: *32nd Mayor's Christmas Concert*

December 15, 2025 @ 7:30pm

Lethbridge Symphony presents: *Home for the Holidays*

December 20 @ 11am

Lethbridge Community Band presents:

Tuba Christmas

December 20 @ 6:45 and 8:45pm

Candlelight by Fever present:

Music of Adelle at 6:45pm and Taylor Swift at 8:45pm

December 22 @ 7pm and @ 9pm

Tanner Lapointe and Jamie Jarvie present:

Christmas by Candlelight in the Chapel

Fit 4 Life Fridays at 10 am

Group Fitness Class for all fitness levels, ages and genders. Classes run for about 50 minutes.

Our fitness class leaders are our own **Gabrielle Dumont** and her co-coach **Nancy** who are willing to share this role.

Classes will always be a mix of strength and cardio, using different equipment, and appropriate for all fitness levels including seated.

By Donation - suggested \$5/person, pay what you can.

December classes run Dec. 5 (with Gabrielle) and Dec. 12 (with Nancy)



Christina and Taina attended the Chinook Winds Administrator's Conference November 7 - 8 in Strathmore.

The conference took place at the beautiful **Strathmore United Church**, seen here dressed for their Remembrance day service.

We enjoyed meeting our peers from across Alberta, from Medicine Hat to Barrhead.

The Property committee at Southminster has been busy this fall. Thank you to Graham Argyle (chair), Dave Heatherington, Mark Stolte, Jason Stone and Kevin Chubb for your great work!



December 2025 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <p>9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)</p>	<p>2 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 7:5pm Vox Musica (S)</p>	<p>3 12pm-11pm Geomatic Attic (S, L) 5:30-6:30pm Lutherans (Ch) 7-9pm Choir Practice (Ch) 7pm U-18 Hurricanes SMH</p>	<p>4 9am-8:30pm St. Patrick's School (S, SMH, L) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7:30pm Sportball (UH)</p>	<p>5 9-10am Sportball (UH) 10:10-45am Fit for Life (SMH) 3-7:15pm VWTWTG (SMH, K) 6-9pm Ventus Concert (S) 6:30-8pm Tanya Gill (UH)</p>	<p>6 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10:30am Congregational Breakfast (SMH, K) 11am-2pm St. Paul's (Ch) 3-6 pm Sarah's D (UH) 1-10pm Community Band Rehearsal (S, L) 7pm Concert</p>
	 <p>7 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S) 11:30-am-2:30pm Sportball (UH) 5-7pm Aurora Choral (S, L) 7pm Concert 6:30-8:30 pm Comm. Band (SMH)</p>	<p>8 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 5-6pm Healing Pathways (Ch) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)</p>	<p>9 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5-9pm 100 Women Who Care (SMH) 7:5pm Vox Musica (S)</p>	<p>10 5:30-6:30pm Lutherans (Ch) 6:30-8:30pm YOUNTED Youth (BR) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7pm U-18 Hurricanes SMH</p>	<p>11 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 12-10pm GPMs (S, SMH) 4:30-7:30pm Sportball (UH)</p>	<p>12 9-10am Sportball (UH) 10:10-45am Fit for Life (SMH) 3-7:15pm VWTWTG (SMH, K) 11:30am-10:30pm Vox 7pm Concert (S, UH, L, Ch, N)</p>
	 <p>14 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (S, SMH)</p>	 <p>15 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 12:30-9pm Symphony & Brass (S)</p>	 <p>16 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S)</p>	 <p>17 5:30-6:30pm Lutherans (Ch) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S)</p>	 <p>18 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7:30pm Sportball (UH) 5pm Symphony (BR) 5:30-8pm Ecole St. Mary (S)</p>	<p>19 9-10am Sportball (UH) 10:10-45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6:30pm Southminster Family Christmas Activity Night (SMH, K)</p>
	 <p>21 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 1-9pm Rock of Ages (SMH, K)</p>	 <p>22 4:30-10:30pm Tan and Jam (Ch) 7pm, 9pm Concerts</p>	 <p>23 6:30 Cornhole League (SMH)</p>	 <p>24 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (S)</p>	 <p>25 10am Lutherans (Ch)</p>	<p>26 11am-2pm St. Paul's (Ch) 10am-3pm Tuba Christmas (S, SMH) 1pm Concert 3-11pm Candlelight Concerts (S)</p>
	 <p>28 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am ONLINE worship by McKillop United Church 10:30am-2pm G. Bent (S)</p>	 <p>29 Longest Night service 7pm Chapel</p>	 <p>30 Office closed</p>	 <p>31</p>	 <p>DECEMBER</p>	<p>Southminster Hall (SMH) Sanctuary (S) Upper Hall (UH) Lounge (L) Wesley Room (W) Chapel (Ch) Board Room (BR) Kitchen (K)</p>