



Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

February 2026

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9am to 4pm



1011 – 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P7
Phone: 403 327-3404 * Fax: 403 320-9863
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:

We are very blessed to be celebrating a baptism this month at Southminster on Transfiguration Sunday. As our Community of Faith welcomes a new member, we also rejoice that the Body of Christ continues to grow amongst us.

We're about a month away from our Annual Congregational Meeting and I invite you into a time of discernment about your discipleship expressed through a role of the Church Council or one of its committees. This year we are specifically seeking a vice-chair for Church Council and the Faith Formation Committee is looking for one more Sunday School teacher to share in their rotation. You can view descriptions of all of the committees and their roles on the bulletin board outside of the lounge. If you are interested in serving God in a role of any of the committees you can speak to Gabrielle Dumont who chairs the Nominations Committee.

We have a few concerts at Southminster this month, but I just want to highlight one. **On Friday, February 13th** Southminster hosts The University of Lethbridge Fine Arts department for a concert to benefit the Lethbridge Food Bank and Interfaith Food Bank. How appropriate for St. Valentine's Day, the concert theme is: **"If Music Be the Food of Love."** Entrance will be by donation, all supporting the food banks.

This year sees an early Easter, so we begin the season of Lent at the end of February. Southminster will be the host for the first of the Downtown Ecumenical Ministerial **Lenten Lunches on Thursday, February 19th**.

At the end of the month the Lethbridge United Churches will be having another **Rib Dinner on Friday, February 27th at McKillop United Church**. This fundraiser will support all of our shared United Church First-Third ministries in southwest Alberta: *Canyon Church Camp, Ecumenical Campus Ministry, and YOUUnited Youth*.

February also sees the Lunar New Year, 2026 will be the year of the horse! May you and your household be blessed with prosperity, peace, and good health.

새해 복 많이 받으세요!



Rev. Taylor leads Children's Time on the second anniversary of Southminster becoming an Affirming Ministry on January 25, 2025

- Rev. Taylor

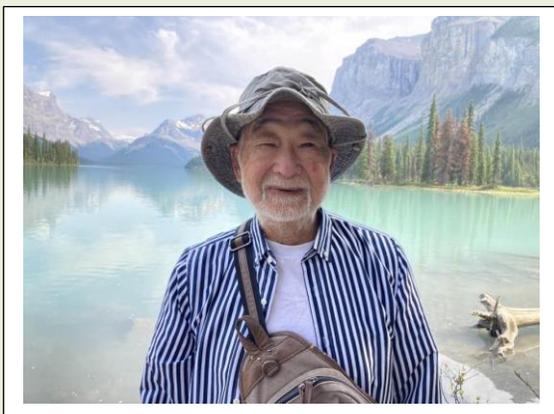
One final TAD TALK on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 10:30am

I propose to discuss "Miracle at the wedding in Cana." Please read, Gospel John 2: 1 - 11. I would like us to think about the importance of "Food and Wine" in the tradition of Judeo-Christian spirituality.

Why John brings out the Miracle of Jesus turning water into wine as such an important event that he put it as the first action of his ministry. Why is providing alcohol to the party guests such an important sign? As a man brought up in a strictly non-alcoholic culture of a Methodist household, this passage had been problematic for me for a long time. Most religions have food restrictions. Muslims do not touch alcohol. Why Jewish people avoid pork? Why does Basotho think pregnant women must not eat eggs?

Let's discuss Food and Drink on February 21, Saturday at 10:30 from the Christian point of view.

I wish to thank all of you for allowing me to continue the monthly discussion group for more than 20 years. It's time for someone to take over.



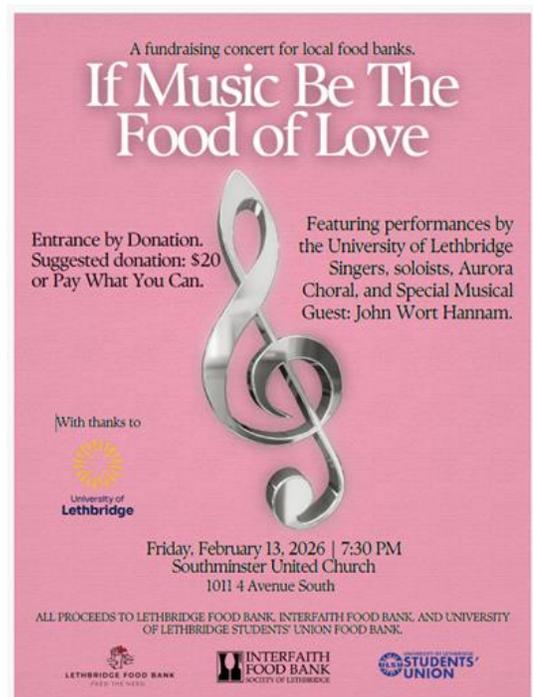
Cheers,

Tad

Ecumenical Campus Ministry update by Church in Society Committee

This month we'd like to highlight the work the **Ecumenical Campus Ministry** does in Lethbridge at both of our post secondary institutions. **Corinne Steele** and I share the position on the board and attend monthly meetings to keep up with the great work they are doing. In February, they are hosting an evening with the impressive talents of the University Music faculty and students to support three food banks: **Lethbridge Food Bank, Interfaith Food Bank and University of Lethbridge Student Union's Food Bank.** It will be a wonderful evening of music and it's very encouraging to be a part of such an amazing effort to care for our neighbours.

The Concert, **If Music Be The Food of Love**, will be take place at Southminster Friday, February 13 at 7:30pm!



ECM also have a unique Blend of coffee at Cuppers. Here is the website for ordering their coffee on line....
<https://www.cuppers.ca/product-category/fresh-roasted-coffee/fundraising-coffee/ecm-lethbridge/>

Super easy and usually ready for pick up fast unless it is a busy day! They receive a portion of the sales back to support the ECM!

Have a great month,

Melanie Winters
Chair of CIS

Saturdays at Ten Thirty ** GATT **

February 6
Learn to play Bridge with Linda

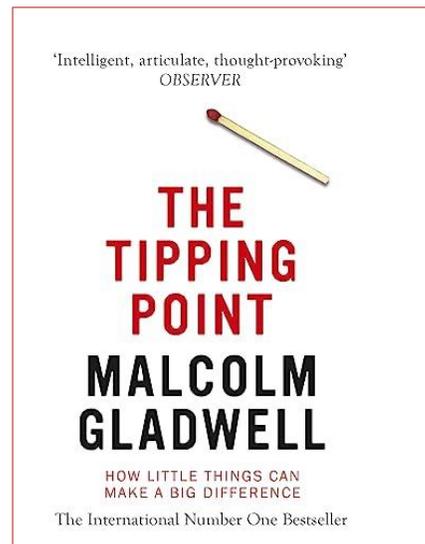
February 14
Craft with AMY

February 21
Tad Talk in the Lounge

February 28
Movie and Discussion with
Gabrielle

Tuesday Book Club

The Tuesday Book Club has chosen to read “The Tipping Point” by Malcolm Gladwell as their next book, starting the discussion on Feb. 24. A Zoom link can be provided if anyone wishes to join online.



2026 Lenten Lunches

Soup, bread and fellowship Thursdays at noon

Lenten Lunches are a long running tradition in Lethbridge. They started in the **late 1980's** as a Southminster hosted initiative while **Rev. Norm Thomas** was the minister here. Since then, many Downtown churches have joined the annual Ecumenical event. This year, the hosting churches are:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Feb. 19 | Southminster United Church |
| Feb. 26 | St. Augustine's Anglican Church |
| March 5 | St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church |
| March 12 | The Gate Church |
| March 19 | Salvation Army Community Church (<i>co-hosted by First Baptist</i>) |
| March 26 | All Saints Roman Catholic Church (<i>held at St. Basil's</i>) |



2024 Lenten Lunch

Everyone is invited to enjoy the hospitality of the neighboring churches and meet members of these congregations during complimentary lunches.

This year, Southminster is hosting the **Lenten Lunch on Thursday, February 19, 2026** in the hall. We are serving soup, buns, cookies and squares. There is a sign up sheet outside the Lounge. We would appreciate your help in making one of these items as we eat and visit with other churches in our community.

Please make your soup in a crockpot. All items should be dropped off in the kitchen by 10:30am. Thank you in advance for your service.

Youth Centre/Southminster Hall

It was in 1950 some seventy-five years ago, that Southminster Hall was opened. The reason for the addition was due to the church had grown and there was a need for more space of the Sunday School and young people's activities. ***The years between 1949 and 1960, the Sunday School population was between 850 and 1045 with 1955 having a total of 1336 kids in Sunday School.***

A committee had been struck as far back as 1944 to discuss, advise and plan for an addition. Consisting of Sunday School Superintendent George McKillop, G. L. Dafoe, James T. Vallance from the Session; J.E. McCorkle, Charles S. Glendinning, and William T. Hill from the Stewards; James McIntosh, Mrs. A.S. Fumerton and H.B. Kennedy, representing the congregation, the committee met on several occasions. First item on the agenda was funding.

The first campaign for funds was organized 1944 and for the next five years, money was raised in the way of pledges from the congregation. The architects were Meech, Mitchell and Meech, Architects and Engineering, who drew up the plans, made alterations and presented the final draft to the committee and to the Official Board for approval. The company of Holte and Norland Contractors were the builders. While the new hall was being built, renovations took place the existing hall [Wesley Hall].

In October 1950, a dedication and opening of the hall took place. The order of service was conducted by Reverend Nelson R. Mercer with special guest: Reverend Harry A. Muchmor, Metropolitan United Church, Regina, former minister of Southminster.

The original name of the hall was 'Youth Centre' but it was changed a year later to become Southminster Hall. The hall has been in continual use with events and activities scheduled. They include square dancing, lunches and dinners, Tuxis Boys Conferences, drama events, musical theatre, church annual meetings, members birthday and anniversary parties, and a variety of sports.

In 2012, there was a flood in the hall from a leaky roof. When repairs were made, painting was done, new lighting installed and the floor was resurfaced. After the repairs, the basketball court markings centre circle, free-throw line and the three-point line, were gone. Throughout the years the square dance club too varnished the floor after their season concluded.



See the history bulletin board in the hall for photos regarding the hall

CAMP CANYON

Calling all volunteers! As we ramp up for summer camps, we have many volunteer “jobs” that need to be filled.

1. We are looking for board members as well as people to be on committees (fundraising, personnel, community engagement, and more).
2. Would you like to volunteer for a week at camp? For each week of camp we need leaders for crafts, nature activities, faith studies/chaplain, camp Mom/Dad/grandparent, and a medic. Contact programming@campcanyon.ca if you are interested in any of these week-long positions.
3. Do you know a business that might be willing to donate money, food, or items needed at camp? If so, please contact fundraising@campcanyon.ca.
4. Every Saturday in May will be a camp cleanup/painting day. If you are interested in being on our volunteer list, contact info@campcanyon.ca
5. We are also looking for various items for the new cabins. Keep in mind that the staff cabins are small, so dimensions are important. If you have something you think the camp could use, please contact us at info@campcanyon.ca and we will see if your item would work.
6. For many families the cost of camp can be prohibitive. **Did you know that most United Churches have a fund to help sponsor children to go to camp? Contact the Southminster office if this is something you are willing to do.**
7. Monetary donations are always welcome. Running a camp has a lot of expenses and we try to keep the cost down for participants. Every dollar helps!

Mark your calendars! **Camp Canyon’s grand re-opening will be on July 4, 2026!**

If you have any questions about Camp Canyon, you can reach me by email at whittmirefamily@gmail.com or by phone at 403-308-4153. I would love to hear from you.

Thank you for all your support!

Christina Whittmire,
President Canyon Church Camp board of directors



2026 Camp Dates:	
July 5-10	Explorer Camp for Ages 8-11
July 12-17	Explorer Camp 2 for Ages 10-12
July 19-24	Explorer Camp 3 for Ages 12-14
August 4-7	Discovery Camp for Ages 6-9
August 9-14	Youth Adventure Camp for Ages 13-15
August 16-21	Multi-Faith Youth Adventure Camp for Ages 14-19
Family Camps June 19-21; July 17-19; Aug. 7-9	
Women’s RetreatSeptember 18-20	
Alumni WeekendSeptember 25-27	

Southminster United Church Financials – End of December 2025

2025	total	12	actual	Budget	2025	
					actual	Budget
Southminster United Church	Jan - Dec	2025 Budget	per month	per month	Average per day	Daily
Congregational Collections	156,409	157,000	13,034	13,083	434	436
Designated Recoveries	10,537	22,375	878	1,865	29	62
Rentals & Other Income	216,239	188,550	18,020	15,713	601	524
Total Funds In	383,185	367,925	31,932	30,660	1,064	1,022
Staffing Costs	255,787	264,241	21,316	22,020	711	734
Operating Costs (Office etc)	46,606	52,725	3,884	4,394	129	146
Facility Upgrades	2,586	19,500	216	1,625	7	54
Building Upkeep	38,783	20,000	3,232	1,667	108	56
Utilities	33,247	35,750	2,771	2,979	92	99
Committees	10,183	8,625	849	719	28	24
Total Expenses	387,192	400,841	32,266	33,403	1,076	1,113
Current Net (deficit)	(4,007)	(32,916)	(334)	(2,743)	(11)	(91)

Here are the **preliminary 2025 financials at the end of December**. While there may be some minor adjustments yet to be made, we must be extremely pleased with the year end. From the budgeted deficit of almost 33k, we finished 2025 with a small loss of \$4,000. This was due to the very well-received “Across Canada” Campaign, savings in staffing and utility costs; and better than budgeted rental income. Well done!

Final numbers will be available at the Annual General Meeting on March 1, 2026. - Taina



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

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.



February 2026 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship with Communion (S, SMH) 12:30-3pm Symphony Orchestra (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)</p>	<p>2 9-11am Singsong (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 5-6pm Healing Pathways (Ch) 6:30-10pm Symphony (S, SMH, L) 7:30pm Concert </p>	<p>3 10-11am Singsong (UH) 2-2:45pm Singsong (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Singsong (SMH)</p>	<p>4 4:30-5:30 Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)</p>	<p>5 9-10am Singsong (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 5:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (Ch)</p>	<p>6 9-11am Singsong (UH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)</p>	<p>7 8:45-11:45 Singsong (UH) 10:30am Bridge with Linda (L)</p>
<p>8 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship led by Hilary</p>	<p>9 9-11am Singsong (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6:30 Ethel (L)</p>	<p>10 10-11am Singsong (UH) 12-1:30pm Mommy Conn. (UH) 2-2:45pm Singsong (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Singsong (SMH)</p>	<p>11 4:30-5:30 Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)</p>	<p>12 9-10am Singsong (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 11:30-12:30 Mommy Conn (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 5:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (Ch)</p>	<p>13 9-11am Singsong (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 4pm Property Comm (L) 7pm Food Bank Fundraiser (S) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)</p>	<p>14 10:30 Craft with AMY 4-11pm Candlelight Conc. (S) </p>
<p>15 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship with Baptism (S, SMH) 4-9pm Saanatan (SMH) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (S)</p>	<p>16 HAPPY Family Day  Office Closed</p>	<p>17 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Singsong (SMH)</p>	<p>18 4:30-5:30 Music Together (UH) 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service (Ch) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)</p>	<p>19 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 12pm Lenten Lunch (SMH) 5pm Symphony (BR) 5:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:30pm Council (L)</p>	<p>20 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)</p>	<p>21 8:45-11:45 Singsong (UH) 10am-2pm Museus Reh. (S) 10:30 am Tea Talk (L) 12-2pm Singsong (BD (SMH) 3:30-5:30 Singsong (BD (UH) 6pm Museus (S, L) 7:30pm Museus Concert (S)</p>
<p>22 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)</p>	<p>23 9-11am Singsong (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)</p>	<p>24 10-11am Singsong (UH) 2-2:45pm Singsong (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Singsong (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S)</p>	<p>25 4:30-5:30 Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)</p>	<p>26 9-10am Singsong (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 5:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (Ch)</p>	<p>27 9-11am Singsong (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH) 6:30-8:30 Tanya Gill (UH)</p>	<p>28 8:45-11:45 Singsong (UH) 10:30 MOVIE & Discussion 10am-3pm Vox Reh. (S)</p>



Thank you to the members of The February Discipleship Pod:
 Joan Smith, Brenda Albrecht, Joyce Bach, Brooke Culley, Steve Dobay & Ann Marie McDonald, Wanda Gibbons
 They will look after greeting, ushering, coffee hour hosting every week, and Communion serving and some Scripture readings in February.