

Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors




March 2026

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:

In the **season of Lent**, we are invited into a period of self-reflection and repentance. The word “repent” means to change our mind. Not to change our opinions, but to rearrange the very way that we think. To rearrange it in ways that are more oriented toward God, following God’s commandments, and pursuing righteous living. I hope that engagement with this penitential season may gift you with greater clarity regarding God’s place in your life.

I wish to offer a word of thanks to Taina for her diligent preparation of our annual report last month, the agenda handout for the annual congregational meeting, and for this, and every, monthly newsletter. It takes two full work days to compile the annual report, and one full work day to produce a monthly newsletter, and perhaps we take it for granted that it arrives to us so thoughtfully arranged. So, thank you Taina for facilitating communication about everything that happens at Southminster.

Speaking of things happening at our church, I wish to share with you two things that are happening in the future at Southminster, and two things that are happening along with the other local United Churches.

On Saturday, March 14 the **Men’s Club** will be meeting together at 9:00am. We have another excellent speaker lined up. Unfortunately, I have to be away for that gathering, but I wanted to encourage your participation in my absence.

Six days later, on Friday, March 20, McKillop United Church will be hosting another **rib dinner fundraiser** for our shared United Church ministries for people in the first-third of their lives. Tickets are available in the office for \$60 with a \$40 tax-receipt to be issued. Proceeds will support Canyon Church Camp, YOUnited Youth, and Ecumenical Campus Ministry.



Rev. Taylor at the Annual
Congregational Meeting on
March 1, 2026.

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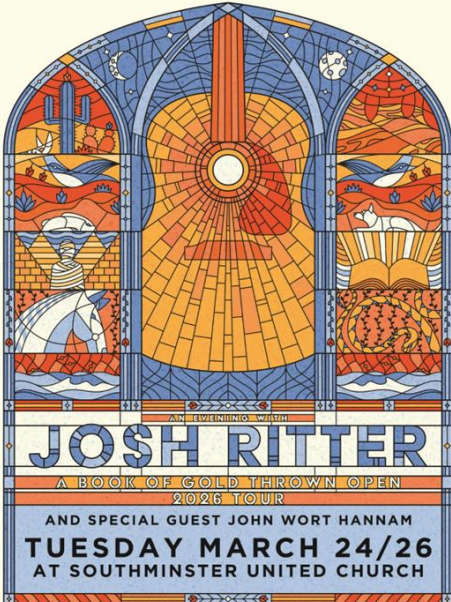
This is not necessarily a Southminster event, but it is occurring in our building, on Tuesday, March 24 Geomatic Attic will have Josh Ritter in concert. Very generously, Geomatic Attic has directed a percentage of the revenue from at concert will support Canyon Church camp. Tickets purchased directly from the Southminster office will amazingly give 100% to the camp!

Looking ahead to Holy Week next month, Southminster will be hosting **Maundy Thursday** this year, but we will not be doing so at our building. We are leading the service, but the service will be **at South Alberta Japanese United Church**. Several people have said to me that they have never been in that building, I hope you'll take the opportunity to participate in our Holy Week observances there.

Until that time arrives, I hope that you have a meaningful season of Lent. Christ's peace to you in your sojourning.

- **Rev. Taylor**

In March, there are two great fundraiser opportunities to support United Church's First Third Ministry: Canyon Church Camp, Ecumenical Campus Ministry and YOUnited Youth.



JOSH RITTER
 A BOOK OF GOLD THROWN OPEN
 2026 TOUR
 AND SPECIAL GUEST JOHN WORT HANNAM
TUESDAY MARCH 24/26
 AT SOUTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

TICKETS: \$60
A portion of the proceeds will go toward the rebuilding of Canyon Camp for kids at Waterton Lakes National Park.
DOORS 7PM MUSIC 8PM
 Available at Casa or:
GEOMATICATTIC.CA



RIB DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR 1/3 MINISTRY

March 20th at 6:00 P.M.
 McKillop United Church
 2329 15th Avenue South

Help us support

- Lethbridge's & Area Youth Group YOUnited
- Canyon Church Camp
- Ecumenical Campus Ministry

Tickets \$60 with \$40 Tax Receipt

Rib Dinner at McKillop United Church will be served on Friday, March 20 at 6pm. Tickets \$60 (with a \$40 tax receipt) available at the church office.

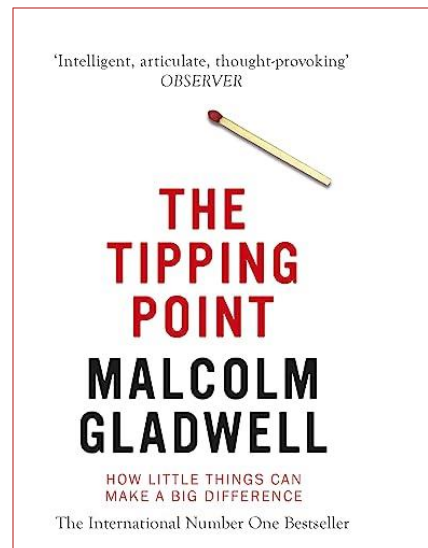
Geomatic Attic presents "Josh Ritter and special guest John Wort Hannam" on Tuesday, March 24 at Southminster at 8pm. As a part of Canyon Church Camp Fundraiser, Geomatic Attic has donated 100 tickets for Southminster to sell in the office; tickets are \$60 and 100% of the sale of these tickets goes directly to support Canyon Church Camp programming in 2026.



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

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 March 3. A Zoom link can be provided if anyone wishes to join online.



2026 Lenten Lunches Soup, bread and fellowship Thursdays at noon

Ecumenical Lenten Lunches continue in March. Here are the host churches of the remaining Lunches in 2026:

- March 5 St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
- March 12 The Gate Church
- March 19 Salvation Army Community Church
(co-hosted by First Baptist)
- March 26 All Saints Roman Catholic Church
(held at St. Basil’s)



Southminster hosting Lenten Lunch on Feb. 19

THANK YOU, THANK YOU,

to all of you who made soup or sweets or brought buns and helped with the set up, serving soup and the dishes for our Lenten Luncheon on February 19th.

Here are the people who shared their time and talents:

- Daphne Bassendowski,*
- Brenda Albrecht,*
- Brooke Culley,*
- Wanda Gibbons,*
- Anne Raslask,*
- Amy Dodic,*
- Carol Romses,*
- Tina Britton,*
- Taina Arnell,*
- Melanie, Jada and Kevin Winters,*
- Wanda Henderson,*
- Cathy Hann,*
- Deb. Argyle,*
- Joyce Boisvenue,*
- Ruth Preston Schilk,*
- Ann Marie McDonald,*
- Donna Tait,*
- Joan Smith*



It was a fabulous team effort!

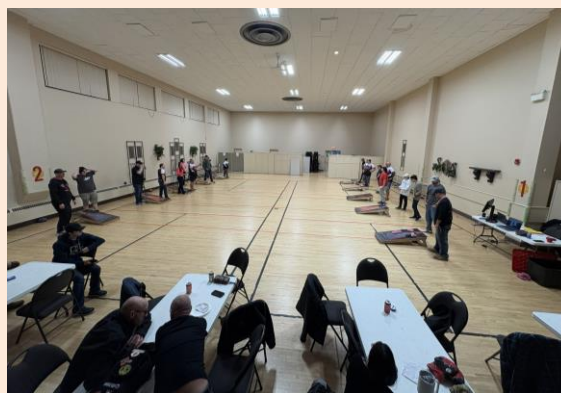
-Joan Smith

Church Adult and Youth Groups involved in SPORTS.

Archives Corner
by Trish Purkis

Did you know that - -

- **In 1936**, the Young People's Association [later Young People's Union] established that year and folded in the 1960s, belonged to the YMCA Bowling League?
- **In 1946**, the city had a Sunday School Athletics Association in which Southminster Sunday School kids were members of either a softball, volleyball, basketball, soccer or hockey league.?
- **In 1947**, the Men's Club played their standard game of **floor curling in Wesley Hall?** - *see photo*
- **In 1950**, the purchase of basketball and volleyball equipment followed the completion of the hall. The hall floor had basketball court markings?
- **In 1950**, the Badminton Club who used the Collegiate gymnasium for their practises and games moved to their permanent home in the hall? Mrs. Maxine Stephen was president of the club and George Rogers was secretary/treasurer.
- **In 1968**, a request was made by the Christian Development Committee to have the upper hall made available for floor curling and ping-pong.
- **In 1973**, the Southminster HiCs, a co-educational group for teen girls and boys 5-17 years of age, entered a volleyball tournament and played against the Medicine Hat HiCs. There was no mention who won the game. The group also enjoyed volleyball, basketball and bowling.
- **In 1980**, the Southminster Youth Group learned the fundamentals of basketball, dodgeball, floor hockey, volleyball and badminton and played these sports in the hall.
- **In 2005**, Sticks and Balls were played by parents and kids every Friday morning.
- **In 2024**, **pickleball for adults and youth** is played in the hall.
- **In 2025**, **Cornhole** (Bean Bag Toss) Fridays for adults. – *see photos*



CAMP CANYON

March is a busy month for Camp Canyon! We have 3 important dates to put on your calendar:

Monday, March 9 at 7pm on Zoom is our AGM. Join us to find out how the rebuild is going, plans for the upcoming year, or join our board. We are currently looking to fill the following volunteer positions: Capital Improvements Chair, Leadership Chair, Vice President, as well as committee members for all groups (fundraising, programming, capital improvements). For the Zoom link for the meeting or for a copy of our annual report, please contact Kathy at dryam@telusplanet.net.

Friday, March 20th at 6pm – Fundraising Dinner for First Third Ministry – this means a portion of the proceeds will go to camp! For Rib Dinner tickets, contact the church office. Tickets are \$60 each, and you receive a \$40 tax receipt.

Tuesday, March 24 at 8pm – Geomatic Attic is presenting a **concert by Josh Ritter and John Wort Hannam** at Southminster United Church. The Southminster office has 100 tickets to sell at \$60 each, and the full proceeds of those ticket sales will go to camp. That is potentially \$6,000 for camp. Amazing! Call or stop by the office to purchase yours.

We are currently hiring for **summer positions – counsellors, custodian, head cook, and assistant cook**. Check out the listings on our website www.campcanyon.ca

Don't forget, **camp registration is now OPEN!** There is no better place to be during the summer than camp. Sign up a child in your life, sponsor a kid to go to camp. Family Camp, Women's Camp, and Alumni Camp registration will open soon. Registrations can be found at <https://app.amilia.com/store/en/chinook-pacific-uccan/shop/programs>

If you have any questions about camp, would like to volunteer with the camp, or to make a donation, contact me any time!

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 Retreat..... September 18-20	
Alumni Weekend..... September 25-27	



Southminster United Church Financials – Year End 2025 Final

2025	total	12	actual	Budget	2025	
					actual	Budget
Southminster United Church	2025 actual	2025 Budget	per month	per month	Average per day	Daily
Congregational Collections	160,509	157,000	13,376	13,083	446	436
Designated Recoveries	11,666	22,375	972	1,865	32	62
Rentals & Other Income	216,148	168,550	18,012	14,046	600	468
Total Funds In	388,323	347,925	32,360	28,994	1,079	966
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	16,040	19,500	1,337	1,625	45	54
Building Upkeep	25,238	20,000	2,103	1,667	70	56
Utilities	33,247	35,750	2,771	2,979	92	99
Committees	10,183	8,625	849	719	28	24
Total Expenses	387,101	400,841	32,258	33,403	1,075	1,113
Current Net (surplus)	1,222	(52,916)	102	(4,410)	3	(147)

Here are final Southminster 2025 financials. We can celebrate a small surplus, achieved by keeping expenses below budget and by doing better than budget for rental income! Many things to be thankful for: the generosity of our congregants, a steady stream of community rentals including pickleball, investment income, warmer weather and no unexpected emergency repairs to our large building.

In recent years, Southminster has become a true hub of activity in downtown Lethbridge. By sharing the space, we get the necessary financial help needed to pay the utility and maintenance costs so we can all enjoy this grand old building.

We are thankful for every churchgoer, Sunday school kid, volunteer, music group member, fitness group participant, book club reader, concert goer, Saturday morning attendee, all who call Southminster home in various ways.

- Taina

Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra and the Little Lethbridge Opera Theatre present:

Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

A 19th century London legend, the story of Sweeney Todd originated in several older tales. Sweeney Todd loses his mind after being imprisoned in an Australian penal colony and losing his wife and daughter to evil Judge Turpin. Returning to his barber shop on Fleet Street with a new identity, Todd swears vengeance upon those who wronged him and the twisted plot unfolds. Come hear the fantastic cast of the Little Lethbridge Opera Theatre in partnership with the Lethbridge Symphony bring this musical to life - and death! **Showtimes at Southminster:**

Thursday, March 19, 2026 - 7:30 PM Friday, March 20, 2026 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, March 21, 2026 - 2:00 PM Saturday March 21, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Tickets online at <https://lethbridgesymphony.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket> or
 In person in the ticket office by Southminster Hall (Mondays 10am to 2pm)



For more information about Healing Pathways, please contact our team members

Brenda 403.393.7780
 Cathy 403.381.4369
 Corinne 403.308.9693

Southminster **Healing Pathways team** is hosting a **"Come and Go" Open House in the small Buchanan Chapel on Saturday, March 14, from 10am to 11am**. You are invited to come, visit with the team, and learn more of the work they do.

The Healing Pathway Ministry, as part of Southminster's pastoral care work, is grounded in the teachings of Jesus as our faith in our Christian beliefs. Light touch is offered but not necessary for healing to occur. It can enhance our experience of Christian community.

It is our intention to provide a basis for ongoing training, support and healing opportunities for all member so the congregation, as well as the community. With these opportunities we wish to help individuals recognize their ability to heal and to be healers, with intuition, love and prayerful creative energy of God to make this community a better place.

SATT – Saturdays at Ten Thirty
March will be an Eggstravaganza!



Pysanky (wax and dye) Easter Eggs crafting with Amy will be in the Sunday School room *every Saturday of the month*. \$5 will buy you as much time as you want. If you have your own tools, bring them, but we will have everything you need. *Bridge will also be played in the Lounge on the March 7.*

Learn How to Play Bridge
 ~in the Lounge~
 on **Saturday March 7 at 10**

Contract Bridge with Linda Horner:

we are offering another Saturday morning session. Anyone can come and play, we have experienced players that will help and teach those who are still learning.



Once again this year, we will be bringing some **colourful live flowers to our Sanctuary for Easter morning**. These **Memorial Mums** are a great Southminster tradition: you purchase one or more through the office in memory of a loved one, and we bring them to the church for Easter Sunday. *After worship, you can take yours home to enjoy for a long time.* Price is \$12 per plant, and Envelopes for purchasing the mums will be available on March 15 and 22.

Coming up: SATT in April

April is exciting! Bridge on the 4th, then the 11th is our famous **Book Sale in the hall**.

The 18th will be our first time making clay Christmas ornaments for our trees in the narthex and sanctuary.

Most excitingly, we have Revs. Ruth and/or Harold leading discussion. We cannot call it Tad Talk anymore...how about the Revs at SATT?

-AMY

March 2026 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship with Communion (S, SMH) Congregational Meeting 3-4:30 pm Roberts Academy (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	2 9-11am  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5-6pm Healing Pathways (Ch) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	3 10-11am  (UH) 2-2:45 pm  (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm  (SMH)	4 4:30-5:30 Music Together (UH) 6-10pm Cornhole Singles (SMH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Yoga (UH)	5 9-10am  (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (UH)	6 9-11am  (UH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	7 8:45-11:45  (UH) 10am Bridge with Linda (L) 10:30 am Pysanky Eggs—Amy 12:30-5:30pm Symphony (SMH) 6pm Museus (S, L) 7:30pm Museus Concert (S)
8 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 12:30-10:30pm Symphony (S, SMH) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (S)	9 9-11am  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	10 10-11am  (UH) 2-2:45 pm  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm  (SMH)	11 4:30-5:30 Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7pm Vox (BR) 7-9pm Yoga (UH) 9pm 100 Women Who Care (SMH)	12 9-10am  (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (UH)	13 9-11am  (UH) 9am-5pm Lights Symphony (S) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	14 8:45-11:45  (UH) 9am-12pm Merr's Club Breakfast (L) 10-11 Healing Pathways Open House (Ch) 10:30 am Pysanky Eggs—Amy 12:30-5:30pm Symphony (SMH) 6pm-2am  (SMH)
15 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 12:30-10:30pm Symphony (S, SMH) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (S)	16 5-10pm Symphony Reh. (S, SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	17 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 5-10pm Symphony Reh. (S, SMH) 	18 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Yoga (UH)	19 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 5pm Symphony (BR) 5:30-10pm Symphony (S, SMH, L) 6:30pm Council (BR)	20 9-11am  (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 5:30-10pm Symphony (S, SMH, L) 6pm Rib Dinner at McEliop	21 8:45-11:45  (SMH) 9am-10pm Symphony (S, SMH, L) 10:30 am Pysanky Eggs—Amy
22 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 1-3pm  (UH) 3-4:30pm Roberts Academy (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	23 9-11am  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6:30-8 Playgoers (L) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	24 10-11am  (UH) 2-2:45 pm  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:30 am  - WR 10am-11pm Geomatic Atic (S, L) 7-9pm Vox Musica (SMH)	25 3-10pm LA Concert (S) 4pm Property Meeting (L) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Yoga (UH)	26 9-10am  (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 3-9pm Sanatan (SMH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (UH)	27 9-11am  (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH) 6:30-8:30 Tanya Gill (UH) 7-9:30 Vox Rehearsal (S)	28 8:45-11:45  (UH) 10am-1pm Vox Reh. (S, SMH) 10:30 am Pysanky Eggs—Amy 6-10:30pm Vox Concert (S)
29 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 1-3pm  (UH) 3-4:30pm Roberts Academy (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	30 9-11am  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 6:30-8 Playgoers (L) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	31 10-11am  (UH) 1-3pm Majlagg Rehearsal (S) 2-2:45 pm  (UH) 4:45-6:45pm  (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:30 am  - WR 7-9pm Vox Musica (SMH)				Southminster Hall II (SMH) Sanctuary (S) Upper Hall (UH) Lounge (L) Wesley Room (W) Chapel (Ch) Board Room (BR) Kitchen (K)

Thank you to the members of The March Discipleship Pod:

Barb Clay, Kevin Chubb, Marg Chubb, Sheila Braund, Jack Sherman, Kathryn Kuppen, Janice Ross,
 Tina Britton, Damian Peck, Amy Dodic

They will look after greeting, ushering, coffee hour hosting every week, and Communion serving and some Scripture readings in March.