



Southminster News


Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

May 2024

Regular Office Hours
Monday to Friday
9 am to 4 pm



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Find us on Facebook 

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

Minister's Message:

We celebrated **Camping Sunday** on April 28, and the same weekend Southminster participated in a very successful event organized by the United Churches in Lethbridge raising money for the rebuilding of **Canyon Church Camp**. Many thanks to **McKillop United** for hosting and preparing the rib dinner. Thanks to the generous support of the membership of our congregations, we were able to raise about \$20,000 at the fundraiser to support the camp rebuild.

As was shared at the dinner, we are very blessed to have many passionate people on the Canyon Board of Directors working on our collective behalf. Camping ministry has touched the lives of countless people. Even those with very loose affiliation with the United Church in adulthood will have great fondness for Canyon Church Camp from their memories attending the camp in childhood. It is an incredible privilege for us in the United Church to have access to this incredible space within Waterton Lakes National Park.

The fundraising dinner was also a great joint achievement for all United Churches in Lethbridge. During the pandemic, we had gotten out of the habit of doing things together and this was a great event to initiate more cooperative projects between our churches in the future.

On May 12, we will observe **Mother's Day**. I wish to offer best wishes to all mothers in our congregation, and I am especially mindful of members of our congregation whose mothers have died in this past year. Your brother, sisters, and siblings in Christ share your heartbreak.

On the May long weekend we celebrate the holy feast of **Pentecost** and the arrival of the Holy Spirit to the church. Typically, we observe this third holiest day of the year with a congregational picnic in the parking lot of the church with food trucks. Church Council felt that folks might be away that Sunday for the long weekend, so **we are transferring the food truck day to the following Sunday, May 26th**! We will return to the usual Pentecost day next year.

May you catch the Spirit in this emerging spring season,



- **Rev. Taylor**

**ALL MEN OF THE CONGREGATION
ARE INVITED TO**

Men’s Breakfast on Saturday,
May 4 at 9 AM

Cost \$10 per person

Breakfast speaker is David Bell.

He will talk about his
career as a police officer.

*If you signed up for set up or cooking,
please come early, around 8 AM.
Help with clean up afterwards is always
welcome!*



*UCW Downtown Day – Saturday
June 15th, 2024 (NOTE: New date)*

All Women of the congregation are invited to
share in a fun day together!

10am – Meet at Penny Coffee House, 331 – 5th Street S.
for coffee & socializing. Browse through the shops in
the area at your leisure.

1pm – Meet at Streetside Eatery, 317 – 8th Street S. for
lunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway by the
kitchen if you are coming for lunch. Continue shopping
in the area if you wish!



*Pictured here are
ladies from the
Downtown Day
in June 2023*

Questions? Joan 403.328.4771 or Wanda 403.327.9311

Our Saturday morning at Ten Thirty

activities by Faith Formation Committee are
ongoing in May!

All offered at 10:30 a.m.

May 4:

Craft with AMY

Making Fimo pins to sell at the Tea and Bazaar
with the Affirming Logo

May 11:

In the Write Mind

May 18:

Green Burial site visit with Amy

May 25:

Movie with Gabe: Arrival (2016) movie featuring
Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner available on
Amazon Prime or at
Lethbridge Public Library

**More information available in our
weekly Friday emails.**

**Please note: the SATT program will
take a summer break
in June, July and August**

~ ~ ~

**The ever popular “Tad Talk” will
return in September**



A note from the **Christmas Bazaar** organizers! Are
you finding unwanted **jewellery** in your spring
cleaning? We would love to have them at the
Jewellery table at the Christmas Bazaar!

Costume jewellery, broken ones and missing pairs
are welcome – we’ll work with those! You are
welcome to bring them to the office anytime.

Archives Corner
by Trish Purkis

CRIMSON COVE COFFEE HOUSE 1971

As related in the Lethbridge Herald March of 1971, the coffee house was one of the newest in the city opening in the latter part of January. The **Christian Education Committee's** director Don Doram oversaw the organization of the coffee house, and the first few months was a tremendous success. During that year, teenagers gathered in the basement of Southminster Church Hall from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm for fellowship, entertainment, and snacks.

The entertainment came in the form of live music and recorded music. The refreshments were a choice of coffee, soda, and snacks.

The coffee house was open during the months of January to May closing for the summer. After the summer, it was reopened by popular demand with a new location the Upper Hall. The hours were from 8 P.M. to 11:30 P.M.

If this program was a success, why then did it last only a year?



4th Avenue façade before Senator Buchanan Chapel was built

Crimson Cove (1971) in the basement under Southminster Hall (now known as the Hudson Hall).

IS YOUR SHOE CLOSET FILLING UP?



This spring, the **West Lethbridge Lions Club** has launched a campaign to collect **25,000 pairs** of used shoes for men, women and children. All donated footwear will be shipped to third world countries for those in need.

Southminster will be one of the collection bin locations in May and June. You can bring your gently used shoes to the office anytime. If you need more information, please contact Janice Ross.

Six O'clock in the Chapel

not available for Sunday morning worship, or prefer something a little less formal? This monthly Saturday evening gathering is for you!

Please join Hilary Squires in worship on **Saturday, May 11 at 6:00 pm** in the small and welcoming Buchanan Chapel.

Not your regular time, not your regular service!



Friday Fit for Life at Southminster 9:30 - 10:15 am.

Group Fitness Class for all fitness levels, ages and genders. Our awesome instructor Victoria keeps us challenged according to the individual fitness level and ability. Bring a friend!

Classes run for 45 minutes in a circuit style. Exercises are designed to be easily modified if needed, while listening to fun music. All equipment provided, just come wearing indoor shoes and comfortable clothes.

by Donation suggested \$5 per person, pay what you can



LETHBRIDGE ROTARY DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL powered by ATB

Friday, 21 June 2024 – Sunday, 23 June 2024

The Premier Dragon Boat Festival in Western Canada



HOLY SHIP!!

Are you interested in Dragonboating? Lethbridge Rotary Dragonboat festival takes place at Henderson Lake from Friday June 21 to Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Lori O'Leary is looking for interested paddlers to once again fill the "HOLY SHIP" boat. Please talk to Lori or email her at holyship22@gmail.com for more information. Paddles up!

Food Truck Sunday at Southminster

This year (Pentecost falling on the long weekend) we will have our **Food Truck Sunday on May 26th.**

Please plan to **stay after church** to enjoy a picnic lunch by *Two Guys and a Pizza Place, Mel's Pop Shop, The Hawaiian Burger Truck and The Super Cheesy Truck* on the north parking lot outside of the church (SM hall in case of rain).

We've had wonderful response to this in the past and hope it will be a great success this year, too. Our Anglican friends across the street will be invited as well and you are most welcome to invite others to join us in fellowship.

Please bring cash or e-transfer for Mel's Pop Shop and credit/debit for the other food trucks.





Canyon Church Camp

With spring brings the hope of construction at camp! We are planning to break ground soon and get to work. The goals for this spring/summer/fall are to put in the new wastewater system, bring our current buildings up to code, re-establish our utilities and hopefully get the girls' washroom built. If all goes well, we will also rebuild the outdoor chapel and firepit area. All timelines are dependent on Parks Canada, construction crews, and of course, the weather!

The CCC board of directors would like to extend a huge thank you to the Lethbridge United Churches that held the camp fundraiser on April 26. It was a resounding success thanks to the efforts of our organizing committee (Rev. Taylor, Rev. Lois, Rev. Trevor, Rev. Glenda, Steve Dobay, Christina W., and Marilyn M.) and to the amazing McKillop crew who fed us all.



Most of all, it was heartwarming to have so many members of our camp family gathered together for a meal. We are grateful to everyone that joined us, donated to the event, to those that bought items and to everyone that spread the word about the event. Thank you especially to the Southminster UCW and Men's Club for their generous donations to the camp rebuild.

It shows signs of being a busy spring for the camp. Watch for updates on our social media, or feel free to track me down to check on the progress.

If you would like to support the camp financially, we accept e-transfers to campcanyon@gmail.com (please include your mailing address in the notes section for tax receipt purposes). You can also drop a donation off at the church office at any time. Please make cheques payable to Canyon Church Camp.

Thank you for your continued support. We really, truly appreciate it. Let's get this rebuild started!

- *Christina Whittmire*





I’ve been thinking about something for a while. It kinda took a bit of a twist in the last few days. I hadn’t really planned to use it for my commentary – but here it is . . .

You may – or may not – have noticed that I haven’t submitted a commentary for a couple of months or more. Not wanting to make it sound like an excuse, I’ve had lots going on and by the time I get home in the evening – my brain is done for the day. Last night, I had a dream about how that plays into my theme for today.

“I Heard the Voice of God Today” - one of my favorite hymns – I really like the traditional Celtic Air the words are set to. Of course, all the Irish/Scottish tunes are my favorites – especially accompanied by harp and flute (and possibly bagpipe).

“I Heard the Voice of God today” – as the light breeze settled in the branches – softly humming a lullaby to quiet my soul. “I Heard the Voice of God Today” as the breeze strengthened and intensified - roaring and howling around of my home.

I am safe and warm, but outside I hear God’s anger that so many of his children are not. I Hear the Voice of God in the thunder and see God’s face in the

lightening strikes that sometimes starts a fire - reminding us of the Power of Creator.

As destructive as that may be – and I don’t want to diminish the chaos and grief that it brings – “clearing the field” brings the opportunity for planting new seeds, for re-growth, for bringing things “up to code”, for building a future. Think of how Canyon Camp has risen from the ashes, continuing to soar and plant seeds of Faith in our children and grandchildren. Phoenix.

I saw the face of God Today as the wet snow fell on drought-stricken soil. I saw the work of God today as I had my foot X-rayed and considered the research, the science, and the inventions of man-kind enhancing knowledge in medical and other fields of wisdom and technology. I heard the quiver in God’s voice today as vehicles rushed by, revving engines and drivers shouting profanities at one another realizing that the rain falling on my windshield were tears from heaven.

As a young child, I was taught that God is Everywhere – Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent – the Alpha and the Omega, at the Beginning and at the End. “Creator” is Alive within us – in our Hearts, Our Souls and in our Faith. If we measure our Everyday against the principles of Humility, Gratitude, Kindness and Respect we can do God’s business in our smallest gestures and intent.



Your small gestures of action, of financial support, of kindness to one another – helps Southminster survive to thrive another day. The Good Works we do as a community of Faith may not change the Whole World = but it changes the world of those close by.

Thank you for your Continued Financial contributions to keep us going, day after day – year after year. I Heard the Voice of God Today . . I heard Creator Say “Southminster, *In you I am well Pleased.*”

-Lori O’Leary

2024		YTD	YTD	13	Budget	
Southminster United Church	31-Mar	Average per week	Average per day	2024 Budget	Budget per week	Budget Daily
Congregational Collections	28,393	2,184	312	140,000	2,692	385
Designated Recoveries	3,534	272	39	23,500	452	65
Rentals & Other Income	44,926	3,456	494	165,900	3,190	456
Total Funds In	76,853	5,912	845	329,400	6,335	905
Staffing Costs	62,152	4,781	683	258,901	4,979	711
Operating Costs (Office etc)	11,024	848	121	54,960	1,057	151
Facility Upgrades	0	-	-	5,000	96	14
Building Upkeep	3,596	-	-	12,000	231	33
Utilities	11,730	902	129	40,000	769	110
Committees	1,466	113	16	14,700	283	40
Total Expenses	89,969	6,644	949	385,561	7,415	1,059
Current Net	(13,116)	(732)	(105)	(56,161)	(1,080)	(154)

End of March 2024 Financial figures by Lori O’Leary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship led by Hilary Squires	6 7:30pm Symphony Concert with Vox Musica (SMH, S, L)	 7 6-6:45pm Zumba (SMH)	8 7-9:30pm Choir Practice (S)	9 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada (N)	10 9:30 am Fit for Life (SMH)	11 10:30am SATT—In the Write Mind (L) 6 O’clock in the Chapel
12 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship	13	14 6-6:45pm Zumba (SMH)	15 6:30pm Church Council (BR) 7-9:30pm Choir Practice (S)	16 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada (N)	17 9:30 am Fit for Life (SMH)	18 10am SATT—Tad Talk (L)
19 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 6-6:45pm Zumba (SMH)	22 7-9:30pm Choir Practice (S)	23 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada (N) 6pm Young Lion’s Jazz Concert (S)	24 9:30 am Fit for Life (SMH)	25 10:30am SATT- Movie with Gabrielle (L)
26 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship and Food Truck Sunday	27	28 6-6:45pm Zumba (SMH) 7pm Jazz Society Concert (S, SMH)	29 7-9:30pm Choir Practice (S)	30 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada (N)	31 9:30 am Fit for Life (SMH)	Southminster Hall (SMH) Sanctuary (S) Upper Hall (UH) Lounge (L) Nursery (N) Chapel (Ch) Kitchen (K) Sunday School (SS)

NEW Newsletter Calendar format?

We are experimenting with a different calendar format after hearing that some of you are having a hard time reading the very small print in the daily boxes of the calendar.

This month’s calendar is only showing CHURCH EVENTS and community events OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Please note that all regular rental activities, such as Sportball, music classes, kickboxing, rollerskating, etc. are still happening as usual.

If you wish to book any space at the church, please always contact the office for availability.

What do you think? Do you like this “trimmed” version, or would you prefer to see the full list of activities?

Full May activity calendar is displayed in the main hallway at the church