

Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

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October 2026

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9am to 4pm
Closed Saturday/Sunday



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

Minister's Message

Walking outside of Southminster this week has reminded me that it's time to rake the leaves on 11th street, it usually takes 25 of the brown yard bags from Home Hardware to finish the job! The trees in Lethbridge have certainly been offering their autumn brilliance to us, I hope you make a visit to Pavan Park to enjoy its fall splendor before all of the trees give up their leaves for a winter slumber.

Looking ahead at Southminster we'll be celebrating the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month for World Communion Sunday. Then on Thanksgiving Sunday we'll be celebrating another sacrament as baby Markus is welcomed as a member of the church through baptism!



Rev. Taylor with Brian Ward at Brian's River Baptism Day of September 13, 2026

In October, Albertans are being invited into a significant conversation in public life by our provincial government. The United Church of Canada has encouraged its membership to engage with these issues informed by our Christian faith. Chinook Winds Regional Council, to whom Southminster belongs, has prepared a referendum toolkit to assist in the consideration of the issues presented in the referendum, and I would commend those resources to you. They can be found on the Chinook Winds website: chinookwindsregion.ca

At the end of the month, we will be joining together in community at our annual Fall Supper hosted by the Men's Club on Saturday, October 24th at 6:00pm. Tickets are available on Sundays at Coffee Hour following worship, and in the office during the church's regular business hours. Many thanks to all the men taking on a role to put on another great evening.

With gratitude for all the ways God continually blesses us, may every day be a day of Thanksgiving.

- ***Rev. Taylor***

Annual Congregational Picnic on September 13 at the Elk's Picnic shelter



INTRODUCING SOUTHMINSTER'S HEALING PATHWAY MEMBERS



Hello, I'd like to introduce myself, **Brenda Albrecht** from Healing Pathways.

Early in 2025 Cathy Hann was looking for volunteers to get Healing Pathways at Southminster going again, and there was a training session coming up (yes, we do undergo training, there are four phases, the fourth one being a year long!). I have the first two and really look forward to doing the third. It is all offered within the auspices of the United Church of Canada.

So yes, I felt a "calling" to look into it more; maybe my 38 years as a nurse had something to do with it: I am a graduate of University of Calgary, Faculty of Nursing, with a Bachelor's degree in nursing, registered with AARN. *(Mine was a very early program of nurses going to university for 4 years with hospitals and healthcare in the community being our "labs".)*

Healing Pathways has a very gentle approach, everything is under the control and permission of the person receiving the treatment. At the beginning, we explain what typically happens, and you can decide based on that. We can touch, or not, you can lie down, or you can sit. We are praying just for you the whole time and I personally sing praise in my heart! God's grace and healing energy comes through us to wherever it is needed in you.

I believe the program used to be called "Healing Touch" but that name cannot be used any longer as it is trademarked by a group in the US.



Hi, my name is **Cathy (Catherine) Hann** and I have been a member of Healing Pathway Canada for about 25+ years. I was brought to Healing Pathway by a friend, Wendy Sherman, and in 2001, I answered the call to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and "to ask God to work through my hands."

I believe that in my intention and my faith that I have completed 3 Phases of training:

Phase I – An Introduction, Phase 2a – Healing from the Heart, Phase 2b – Where Two or More Gather, and Phase Three – Communion of Saints.

The Healing Pathway program trains and mentors people who wish to develop the gift and skill of healing hands within the Christian tradition. The primary focus of the Healing Pathway program is on team ministry that is centred and grounded in the life and structure of a congregation or an intentional community. It is an expression of deeper faith, of compassion, forgiveness and caring.

We also work in conjunction with McKillop United Church, to support each other, when needed, in bringing this wonderful spiritually, faith-based modality to our congregations and our wider community.

Southminster's Healing Pathways group would like to remind you that they are available for a session or prayers. If this is something you are interested in, please contact the office at 403.327.3404 or smunited@shaw.ca and we will forward your message to Cathy Hann and Brenda Albrecht and they will get back to you.

Next month, we hope to introduce two more members, Kathryn Kuppan and Corinne Steele.

SOUTHMINSTER MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS:

The Annual Southminster ROAST BEEF FALL DINNER

on Saturday October 24th at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be delicious roast beef will all the trimmings, salad, and deserts, prepared by the Men's Club of Southminster. There will also be musical entertainment, and the ever-popular Silent Auction.

We welcome your donations for the **Silent Auction**, taking place the evening of the dinner. Auction items may be dropped off at the Office. It you would like an item picked up, please contact Steve Dobay at srdobay@gmail.com.

Tickets $30 available at the Office, and during Coffee Hour on Sundays.

You can also reserve your tickets by e-transferring $30 per ticket to smunited@shaw.ca – please add your name to the message line. Your tickets will then await you at the door.

Southminster Music Director News

After several years of dedicated service at Southminster United Church, **McKade "Kade" Hogg** (B.Ed., M.Ed., B.Mus.) resigned from the position of Music Director in September.

Kade first joined Southminster in 2008 after graduating from the University of Lethbridge. In 2012, he stepped away to spend time with his young family, and in 2018, we welcomed him back. Under his leadership, the Chancel Choir flourished and grew into one of the largest church choirs in Southern Alberta. Aside from directing the choir, he occasionally displayed his organist skills at our Casavant Organ.

In particular, we want to acknowledge the exceptional care and effort Kade showed during the COVID-19 shutdown. Throughout that challenging period, he worked from his home studio to voice, record, and edit our worship music, providing a comforting, familiar tenor voice to our weekly online services.

Please join us in wishing him the very best in his next chapter.

The search process for a new Music Director will begin in October, with more information available through the office soon. In the meantime, we extend our sincere gratitude to Interim Music Director Leslie Dittmann for her leadership during this transition.

Ruth and Harold's discussion group

The Scratching Post

October 17th at 10:30 - 11:30am

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.

October gathering will take place on **Saturday, October the 17th at 10:30 am at the church**.

Our discussion theme will be announced in the October 11th bulletin (and the Friday email prior)

- *Ruth Preston Schilk & Harold Schilk*



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

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

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!



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.



Fit for Life

Friday morning fitness class for all ages and fitness levels at **10am** in Southminster Hall.
All equipment provided. Suggested donation $5.
~ Class every Friday ~
Instructors are Nancy and Gabrielle, on alternating weeks.



Archives Corner
by Trish Purkis

UCW Tea & Bazaars

One of the anticipated events of the fall season is the UCW Fall "Tea and Bazaar".

The early years, the teas were organized by the **Women's Association**. Once the group, along with the **Women's Missionary Society**, joined together to become **the United Church Women in 1962**, the teas were one of the projects that served both the church and community.

There were **many names** associated with the November event. Here is a sample.

- In 1935 the name was simply the *Annual Fall Tea.*
- In the 1940s there was the *Autumn Fall Tea and Pantry Sales*.
- In the 1950s, the focus changed to *Annual Bazaar and Food Festival.* The upper hall and Southminster Hall were both utilized for the abundance of handicrafts and food on display.
- The 1960s saw another name attached to the fare *Bazaar and Food Festival,*
- In 1967 there was home cooking, a room full of aprons. In the Boutique in the Reception Room, there was plenty of gift ideas such as a Treasure Chest. The food tables were set up in the Upper Hall.

In the 1970s, a variety of names was attached to the fall tea and bazaar: ***Winter Wonderland***

- In 1973 saw the 60th Anniversary of the Bazaar and Tea, held November 26. This was the set-up: The **Tuesday Evening** group were in charge of the Candy Table; the **Chinook Unit** in charge of the Shortbread table; the **Grace Unit** took care of the Bread & Buns table; The **Marshall Unit** took care of the Pies & Tarts table; The **Alma Buchanan Unit** of Cakes & Loaves; The **Ogden Unit** oversaw the Deli Table; The **48th Unit** took care of the Platform Specialties {Christmas Decorations} and the **61 Unit** manned the Boutique (handiwork, jewellery table and cookbooks); The **Ellen DeNoon Unit** took care of the White Elephant table.
- In 1975 & 1976 The *Harvest Tea and Bazaar* took place in early November with the same edibles and crafts featured. The pantry featured Breads, Shortbread, candy, preserves, cakes and pies.
- The 1980s saw *Sugar Plum Tea & Bazaar* take place. The name stayed the same for the decade and featured Home Baking, Handicrafts and of course Plum Puddings
- The 1990s Southminster *Snowflake Tea & Bazaar* was held November 7th 2-4 P.M. Featured were the same delights as other years supplied.



Pictured here is Mrs. Mary George & Christmas Delights in 1994.

The teas continue to this day and everyone from church members and the community combine conversation with a cup of tea and pursue the various tables of handicrafts, baking and attic treasures.

- ***Trish Purkis***



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 church and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. We support programs implemented by our member churches and agencies through their local partner organizations in countries around the world.

To celebrate and advocate for those who don't have enough food, we come together each year and host a luncheon to raise money and awareness for The Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

On Sunday November 8th after service, please join us for a luncheon with a suggested donation of $10 per person. You will get a nutritious hot soup lunch with bread, buns, treats, coffee and tea.

We are looking for people to bring buns and goodies for the day. Please sign up outside of the kitchen on the sign up sheets.

- ***Melanie Winters, Chair of Church in Society***

UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar

Saturday November 21

* 2-4 pm * $15 * tickets at the door *

- **Tea with fancy sandwiches and decadent desserts**
- **Bazaar tables for Baking, Crafts, Jewellery, and Christmas Surprises**

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

We will again be asking for $10 donations towards the cost of the sandwiches, as well as decadent dainties for the tea room and baked goods for the Bake Table.

Sign-up sheets for these donations as well as for volunteers will go up in the hallway after the Men's Supper.

Thanks!

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

Saturday morning programming News:



Contract Bridge is back on the 4th Saturday of each month with Linda and helpers!

This is a friendly card game that will help to keep our brains sharp and it's fun too!

All are welcome to come no matter whether or not you have played the game!

The next session is Saturday, **Oct. 24 at 10 am**.

Hope to see you there!



Welcome to our new Student Minister, Kathryn Kuppan, who will be at Southminster for a an 8-month field placement.
Pictured here is Kathryn at her Covenanting day, September 20, 2026 with her mentor Rev. Glenda Wert and Rev. Taylor Croissant.
Kathryn is a student at the Centre for Christian Studies, where she is enrolled in the Diaconal Ministry Diploma Program.

In October, we welcome the October Discipleship Pod:

Linda & Barry Horner, Barb & Dave Colbeck, Sheila Hollihan, Mike & Dianna Greer & Rachel, Trevor & Barb Norlin, Jeannie Slemko & Jack Yaeck.

Thank you for looking after the ushering, greeting, Scripture reading, Communion Serving and Coffee Hour hosting.

A special thank you to the honorary members of every pod: Frank and Lorna Spanbauer, who often delight us on Sunday morning by making and bringing sandwiches to Coffee Hour in memory of their friend Fay.

October 2026 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Southminster Hall (SMH) Sanctuary (S) Upper Hall (UH) Lounge (L) Wesley Room (W) Chapel (Ch) Board Room (BR) Kitchen (K)		1 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH) 7-9:30pm Playgoers (UH)	2 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 5pm Wedding rehearsal (S) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	3 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10:30am SATT—AB Referendum information session (L) or S 12-4pm Playgoers (UH) 3:30pm Wedding (S) L Ch 6-10pm Symphony Reh. SMH
4 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship Rev. Taylor at Southminster (S) World Communion Sunday 1pm—9:30 Symphony Reh. (S) 2:30-4:30pm Baby Shower (L)	5 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 4–5:30pm SUCH Pickleball (SMH) 5—7:30pm Playgoers (BR) 5—11:30pm Symphony Concert at 7:30pm (S) L, SMH	6 10-11am 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) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	7 9-11am Sportball (UH) 1-2pm Sportball (UH) 4:30—5:30pm Music Together (UH) 6-8 pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Vox Musica (BR) 7-9pm Playgoers (SMH) 7-8 Yoga (UH)	8 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30pm Church Council (BR) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	9 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH) 6:30—9:30pm YOUnited Youth Movie Night (L)	10 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10:30 SATT— Rainbow Coffee Hour (L) 12noon—11pm Inclusion Lethbridge Cabaret Dance (SMH +L) 12-4pm Playgoers (UH)
11 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S & SMH) 	12 NO Sportball today No symphony today 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH) 	13 10-11am Sportball (UH) 2pm Fire Safety inspection (all) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	14 9-11am Sportball (UH) 1-2pm Sportball (UH) 4:30—5:30pm Music Together (UH) 5-7pm Sportball (SMH) 6-8 pm Choir Practice (S) 6-10pm Gillian Bracken (UH) 7-9pm Playgoers (SMH) 7-8 Yoga (Lounge)	15 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 5pm Symphony board (BR) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	16 11am Sportball (UH) 10-1010:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH) 7-9pm Playgoers (UH)	17 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10:30 SATT—Scratching Post discussion (Ch or L) 12-4pm Playgoers (UH) 2:30—5:30pm Sportball (SMH)
18 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH)	19 10-11am Sportball (UH) 6am to 10pm Elections Canada in SMH, N & Lounge) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony reh (S) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	20 10-11am 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)	21 9-11am Sportball (UH) 1-2pm Sportball (UH) 4:30-5:30pm Music Together (UH) 5-7pm Sportball (SMH) 6-8 pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8 Yoga (UH)	22 9-11am Sportball (UH) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH)	23 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 3-9:30pm Vox rehearsal (S) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	24 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 9am Men's Dinner set up (SMH) 9am-2pm Vox Rehearsal (S) 10am SATT Bridge with Linda (L) 2:30pm Vox Musica Concert (S) +CH+ UH for holding for Vox 6pm Men's Club dinner (SMH)
25 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 4-8pm Rental (SMH)	26 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:15pm –6pm SUCH PB (SMH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH, S and Chapel) Sectionals 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	27 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-8pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S)	28 9-11am Sportball (UH) 1-2pm Sportball (UH) 4:30—5:30pm Music Together (UH) 6-8 pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8 Yoga (UH)	29 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH)	30 11am Sportball (UH) 10-1010:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 3pm set up (S) 6:30/8:45pm Candlelight Concerts (S) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	31 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10—5pm LCBS rehearsal and concert at 2pm (S) 7pm Halloween Dance in SMH Until 1am 