Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

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April 2026

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9am to 4pm

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

Minister's Message:

We are approaching the end of our Lenten journey, and I wish to commend to you all of the worship services during **Holy Week**, and the deeper meaning they will give to Easter: Maundy Thursday is at South Alberta Japanese United Church, April 2 at 7:00pm; Good Friday at McKillop, April 3 at 10:30am; and Resurrection Sunday will be here at Southminster April 4 at 10:30am.

Later this month we'll look forward to **Camping Sunday**, and receiving another update about the final steps for **Canyon Church Camp to re-launch following nine long years of rebuilding after the wildfire**. I hope that you would share with people in your life who have children that the camp is up and running and that registrations are open!

At the end of the month, Southminster will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of **Chinook Winds Regional Council, April 30-May 3**. This four-day meeting invites the clergy and lay representatives from all 93 United Churches in our region, representing central and southern Alberta. Delegates will meet to discuss policy for supporting Communities of Faith in the region, as well as engage with the theme selected by the Region's Presider, **"Provoking Leadership".**

The theme presenter will be **The Rev. Mitchell Anderson** from St. Paul's United Church in Saskatoon. In addition to serving in ministry, Mitchell has a Masters in Business Administration and serves as the chair of the board of a large credit union in Saskatchewan. He has also just ended a six-year term serving on the General Council Executive. We'll all get a chance to hear from Mitchell as the preacher on Sunday.

We hope for Southminster to serve as excellent hosts for this event, so every member of the congregation will be called upon to assist us in offering hospitality to those joining us. A schedule for volunteer roles will appear after Easter inviting you to help serve beverages throughout the day, food at mealtimes, and washing dishes. Let's all help make our United Church brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ from across Alberta have a great experience visiting Lethbridge!

From both MiYeon and I, we hope that you **experience the joy of Easter** this week. And that your participation in the worship services throughout Holy Week bring both meaning and faith in our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

-Rev. Taylor

Save the Dates
April 30 – May 3, 2026

We are pleased to be hosting the **Chinook Winds Annual General Meeting** Gathering at Southminster on the above dates. Meals will be catered but volunteers are needed to:

- *Make coffee, tea, etc. and refill as necessary*
- *Greet our guests (delegates)*
- *Set out lunches, snacks and dinner, cups, napkins*
- *Help with dishwashing*
- *Put out tablecloths, water, etc. daily (all day)*
- *Any other duties as assigned!!*

A schedule will be posted after Easter for various shifts and duties. Please sign up for shifts that are convenient for you. We need many volunteers to showcase our welcoming church.

Thanks in advance! Questions? - call Joan at 43-328-4771

Many thanks to all all who came to the ***Josh Ritter Concert on*** *Tuesday, March 24 at Southminster.*

Together with the donations from Mike Spencer & Geomatic Attic we raised $7,500 for Canyon Church Camp. We are happy campers!

SATT in April

April is exciting! We'll take a break for Easter 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 (in the basement room).

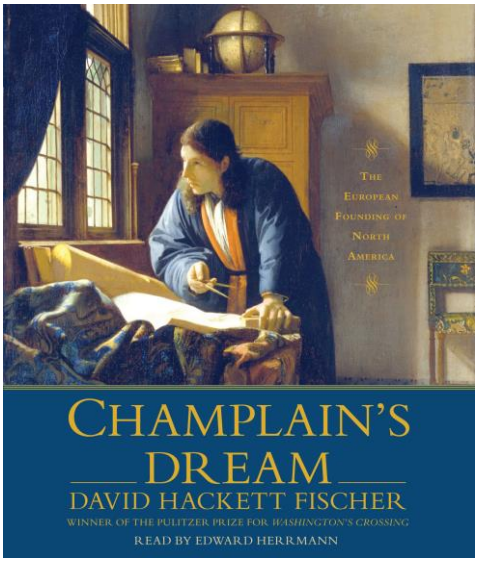
Most excitingly, we have Revs. Ruth and/or Harold leading discussion on April 25. We cannot call it Tad Talk anymore…how about the Revs at SATT?

In March, we spent many Saturdays at 10:30am in the Sunday School basement working on our Pysanky eggs. Thank you to Amy and Deb for your patience, ideas, materials, and instructions!

Sunday School kids delighted our Palm Sunday service with their teacher Jennifer Bradshaw! Thank you, Jennifer, for offering leadership in Sunday School!

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

Tuesday Book Club update



The Tuesday Book Club will finish their current book in April and then take a break over the summer. They have chosen "**Champlain's Dream**" by David Hackett Fischer as their first book in September. It was highly recommended by former Gov. Gen. David Johnson, and the group decided to learn more about this visionary adventurer who made a new world in Canada!

Spring Cleaning!

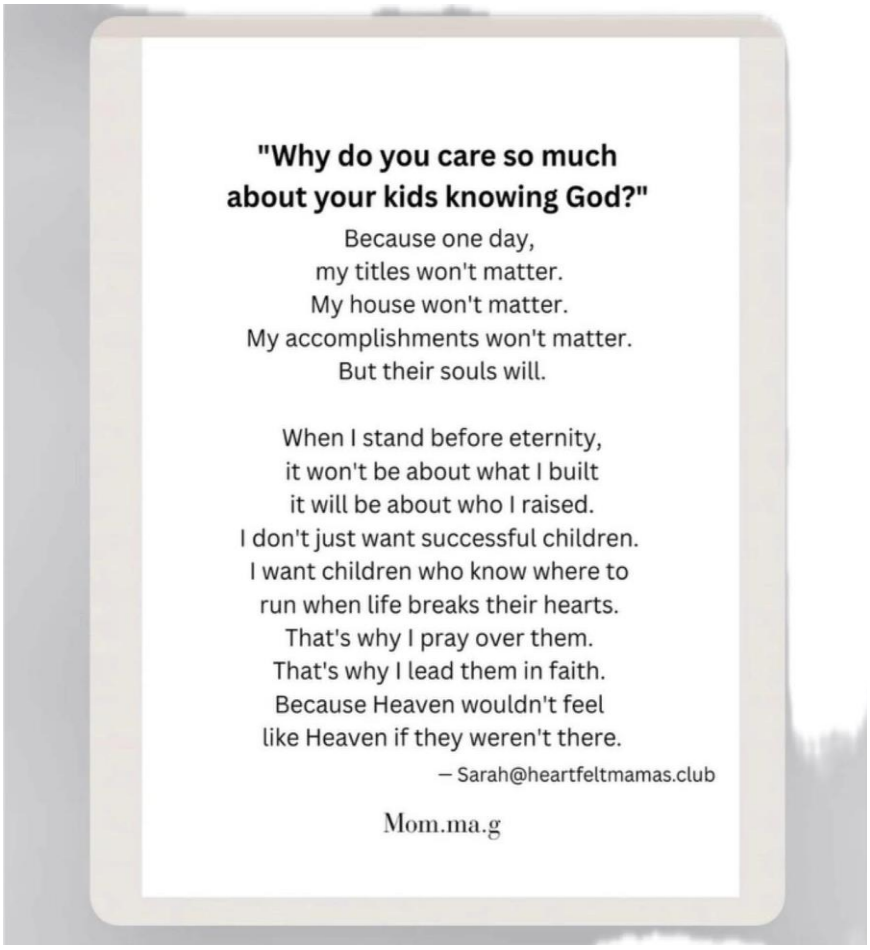
We are planning a church tidy on Sunday April 26 at 1PM, in preparation of the Chinook Winds Regional AGM we are hosting from April 30 to May 3, 2026.

We will be doing light work, fridge cleaning, window cleaning, dusting, sweeping in corners we don't always get to.

A sign up sheet will be available in early April. All cleaning materials will be supplied and a nice snack to say thank you.

Many hands are welcome!
If you need more information call Janice @ 403-330-4482

From Church in Society Committee's Chair Melanie Winters:
"I found this quote recently and it resonated with me so much! It doesn't really fall into church in society but more as a family church role we have in shaping the young minds ahead, please feel free to share it."



"Why do you care so much about your kids knowing God?"

Because one day,
my titles won't matter.
My house won't matter.
My accomplishments won't matter.
But their souls will.

When I stand before eternity,
it won't be about what I built
it will be about who I raised.
I don't just want successful children.
I want children who know where to
run when life breaks their hearts.
That's why I pray over them.
That's why I lead them in faith.
Because Heaven wouldn't feel
like Heaven if they weren't there.

— Sarah@heartfeltmamas.club

Mom.ma.g

Archives Corner
by Trish Purkis

SOUTHMINSTER CHURCH LIBRARY

*For anyone who has sat in the lounge, they are probably aware of the **shelves of books** on the south wall. These are for the congregation or committee's use.*

It was back in 1957 that the Christian Education Committee [now the Faith Formation Committee] was in favor of establishing a library as there was a great need for one. A year later in 1958, a committee was formed with advisors Reverend Dr. Frame and Shirley Munro office assistant. The committee chair was Dr. Bob Kasting, with members Mr. Buzzard, Bert Leys, Doug Grigg, Mrs. Harvey, Mary Fleming.

The first location of the library was in the board room. In 1959 the AOTS Men's Club donated $300.00 to the library fund and cupboards were built, rugs put in place; books and periodicals such as the Observer and Christian Family were obtained. Through the next several years the library used its budget to purchase books mostly from Focus conferences. Other books were donated by church members.

In 1960, a list was generated and all books were classified with cards and a 'return box' was made by the Scout Troup.

It was also in the early 1960s, when the library had grown rapidly, and someone was needed to oversee the number of books available. Edith Hill offered her services, and the church asked John Dutton from the Public Library, to assist in cataloging.

Through the years there had been a variety of people taking up the challenge of looking after the library and this new service was extensively used by many church groups and Sunday School teachers and members of the congregation.

In 1987, the suggestion was made to have the library moved to a more suitable area with easy access and the lounge was chosen and it has been there ever since.

Library coordinators over the years have been Edith Hill, Marion Voth. Roxanne Holmes, Marj Girbav, Bill Baker as interim librarian, Helen Webking with assistance from Jean Fennel, Barb Clay, Evelyn Parsons and Heather Black.

If anyone was missed, my apologizes and please let me know who you are.

By 1992 there were 270 books and tapes in the library and in 1994 a kids shelve was added and six years later, large print books were added. The library had a 3-week limit policy on the honor system.

To this day the library has been used and in June this year, a new, updated list will be generated.

- *Trish Purkis*

Camp Canyon – Christina Whittmire

It's warming up outside, which means it is time to start planning your summer! Our camps are inclusive, technology-free, and loads of fun. What better place to spend a week in the summer than at camp? Hiking, playing games, water play, doing crafts, and making new friends – and all in Waterton Lakes National Park. Camp registrations have been slow to start, so we need you to spread the word that we are open! Tell everyone you know, register your kids/grandchildren, or sign yourself up for one of our weekend adult or family camps!

Did you know that if an adult volunteers for a week at camp, they get $100 off one child's registration for the same week? What a deal! You get the fun of camp, plus a discount for a child in your life!

We are also still hiring for the summer season. Check out the job postings at www.campcanyon.ca

Important dates to remember:
April 19 – Camping Sunday at Southminster
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Camp Cleanup days! Email or call me if you plan on attending.
June 19-21 – our first camp – Family Camp (hosted by me!)
July 4 – Camp Grand Re-Opening Party!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, email me at whittmirefamily@gmail.com or call the church office

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)
- Multi-Faith Youth Adventure Camp: Aug 16-21 (Ages 14-19)

OTHER 2026 DATES

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

REGISTER HERE

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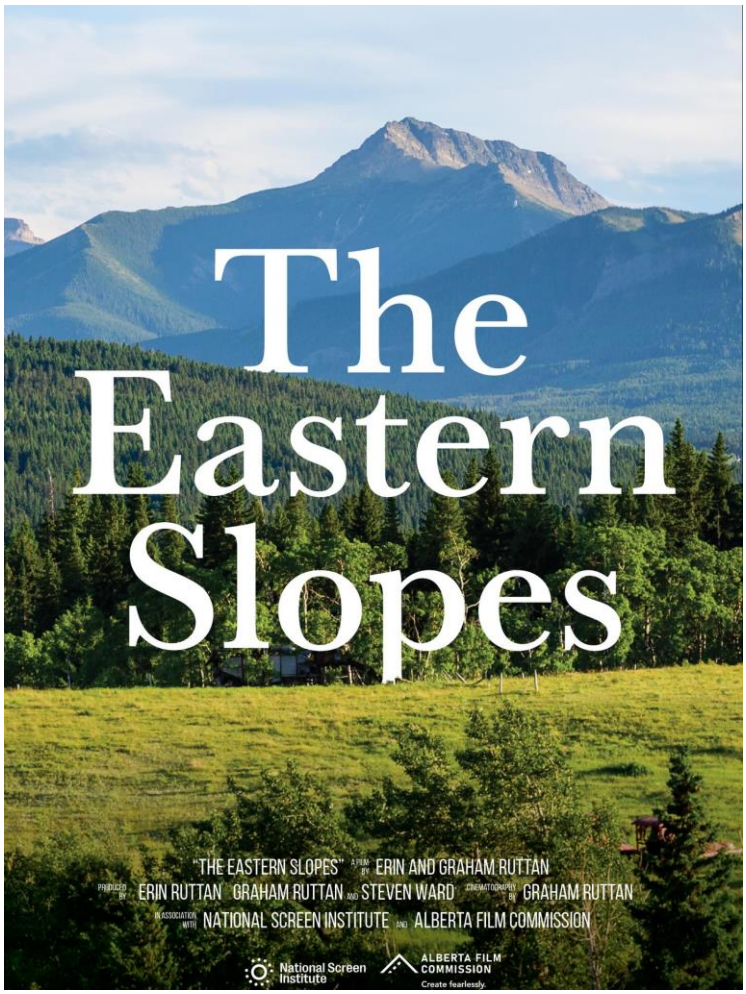
The Friends of the Galt Museum and Archives
Akaisamitohkanao'pa Present:
4th Annual Lethbridge International Film Festival 2026
April 17–20, 2026
https://www.galtmuseum.com/liff-2026



Just in time for Earth Week (April 19–25), LIFF will screen a new documentary by Lethbridge filmmakers Erin & Graham Ruttan. Saturday, April 18 at 11:30 am will be the premiere of this movie which explores the potential impacts of coal mining in the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and the confounding rollercoaster of legislative and policy decisions that continue to shroud the future of our region.

If you would like to support the "Water Not Coal" Petition launched by Corb Lund, there will be an opportunity to sign the petition at Southminster on Thursdays during office hours. Church Council has approved a canvassing station to be set up in front of the Buchanan Chapel doors (or in the chapel entrance in poor weather). Please note, an ID will be required to officially sign the petition.

Chi-Ro Ringers handbell choir who performed at Southminster on Sunday, March 22, will be one the groups featured in this spring concert that will take place on Saturday May 9 at Gilbert Paterson Middle school at 7pm.

Congratulations to these Southminster members participated successfully in the **Moonlight Run** on March 1, 2026

Kevin, Jason, Ella and Dorcas

Who's in for next year?
Time for a Team Southminster?

19th Annual Book sale!! Can you believe this year will be our 19th year of offering good quality used books, puzzles and board games to the congregation and the community alike?

Donations of books and puzzles are welcome in the office any time. The sale takes place in Southminster Hall

Friday April 10 (4pm to 8pm) and

Saturday April 11 (10am to 2pm).

April 2026 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am Symphony Kids' reh. S/SMH 5:30pm Symphony Access SMH/S 7pm Symphony Kids' concert 7-9pm Choir Practice (Ch) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)	2 10:30am Symphony Kids' reh. S/SMH 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30pm Symphony Access SMH/S 7pm Symphony Kids' concert (S) 7-8:45pm Tutti Corda (SMH)	3 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH)	4 8:45-11:45 Sportball (UH) 10am Bridge with Linda (L) 11-1pm Sportball BD (UH)
5 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) Easter Sunday	6 *Easter Monday* *No Sportball* *No Symphony* (there will be pickleball) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	7 9-11 private pickleball (SMH) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:30pm Playgoers (L) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Rollerskating (SMH)	8 1:30—3pm Sarah recording(S) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)	9 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (SMH) 7-10pm Sarah Maljaar concert(S)	10 8-10 private pickleball (SMH) 9-10am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 3pm Candlelight setup (S) 2-4 book sale set up (SMH) 4-8pm BOOK SALE (SMH) 7pm and 9pm Candlelight concerts (S)	11 8:45-11:45 Sportball (UH) 10—2PM BOOK SALE (SMH) 10am –1pm Musaeus Reh. (S) 6-9:30pm Musaeus Concert at 7:30pm (S) 6pm Cornhole league (SMH)
12 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 1-3pm Sportball BD (UH) 3-4:30pm Roberts Academy (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (S)	13 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 6:30pm Playgoers (L) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	14 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:30pm Playgoers (L) 7pm Soup Kitchen Concert (S) 7-9pm Vox Musica (SMH)	15 3PM BYUIdaho (S/ UH/L) 5:30pm BYUIdaho dinner (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (Ch) 7:30PM BYUIdaho concert S/ UH/L)	16 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5pm Symphony (BR) 6:30pm Council (Lounge) 7pm Tutti Corda (SMH) 7pm Soup Kitchen Concert (S)	17 9am—4pm Samantha (UH) 9-10am Sportball (SMH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH)	18 8:45-11:45 Sportball (UH) SMH FLOOR FINISHING ?
19 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 3-4:30pm Roberts Academy (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	20 830am—9pm Festival (S) 9am—4pm Festival (SMH) 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	21 830am—4pm Festival (S) 9am—4pm Festival (SMH) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 7-9pm Rollerskating (SMH)	22 830am—9pm Festival (S) 9am—4pm Festival (SMH) 4:30—6pm Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)	23 9am-4pm Music Festival (S) 9-4pm Music Festival (SMH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 6-8:30pm It's About Music (S) 6:45-8:45pm Tutti Corda (UH)	24 9am—3pm Festival (S) 9-12pm Music Festival (SMH) 9-10am Sportball (UH) 10:15am—11 Fit for Life (UH) 6-10pm Cornhole (SMH) 6:30pm Tanya Gill (UH)	25 8:45-11:45 Sportball (UH) 9am Men's Breakfast (L) 3-5pm Sportball BD (UH 3pm—2am Hall rental (SmH)
26 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 3-4:30pm Roberts Academy (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	27 9am—4pm Festiival (S) 10-11am Sportball (UH) 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7:30-9:30pm Aurora Choral (UH)	28 9am—4pm Festival (S) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 12-1:30 pm Mommy Co 4:45-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Rollerskating (SMH)	29 9am—9pm Festival (S) 4:30—6pm Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (Ch) 7-8pm Yoga (UH)	30 9am—9pm Festival (S) 9am to 9pm Chinook Arch Regional Annual Meeting (SMH) 9- 4 Lethbridge Music festival (S)		Southminster Hall (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 April Discipleship Pod:

Carol Romses, Hilary Squires, Joyce Boisvenue, Chris Collins, Debbie Argyle and Dorcas Kennedy

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