



Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

December 2024

Regular Office Hours
Mon – Fri
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:

December has arrived! With it comes a very busy building here at Southminster. My hope is that amidst all the excitement we will remember **the intention of the season of Advent** and its conclusion on Christmas Eve and the Feast of the Nativity.

Advent is a penitential season for Christians, as we mourn our failures in the past year to create the conditions for Christ's return to us. Secular society skips over the prayer and fasting parts and goes right to the Christmas celebration and feasting. I highly encourage you to unplug from the commercialism and embody an **Advent summarized by two simple words: WATCH & WAIT.**

On Christmas, Christians celebrate the incarnation of God in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. God chose life among us; a sign of God's love for us to save us from sin and death. All things we do to make this season special: decorating trees, baking cookies, trying not to fall off of our roofs putting up lights, spending time with family and friends - it is all in service of the **hope, peace, joy and love** we experience in **God's grace.**

Do these things if they are life-giving to you, and do not feel an obligation to fulfil some kind of checklist to create a "perfect Christmas." However, the creating and maintaining of **traditions** keeps us grounded when we face difficulties in life.

As you might imagine, with two ministers in our household, December is an extremely challenging time in our house. After a whirlwind week of doing everything necessary to bring you a meaningful worship service each Sunday of Advent (while we know the next one is coming faster than we can handle), we make the time for each other and our weary souls. Every Sunday, we watch a classic Christmas film: *Charlie Brown*, *The Grinch*, *Mr. Bean's Christmas*, *Home Alone 1 & 2*, *A Muppet Christmas Carol*...

I am most honoured that you choose to make time at Southminster, on Sunday mornings and on Christmas Eve, a tradition in your households during Advent and Christmas.

May Christ be born among us as we watch and wait. From both MiYeon and I, Merry Christmas.

-Rev. Taylor

*Decorating the Chapel tree
with Janice on Nov. 29*





CCC Build a Bunk Christmas Fundraising Campaign 2024

Canyon Church Camp December update!

We have secured funding for many aspects of the rebuilding of Canyon Church Camp following the Kenow Wildfire of 2017. However, we still need to raise money to get cabins 1 - 3 ready for campers as well as to rebuild camper cabins 4 - 7. So, this holiday season, we are focusing our fundraising efforts on generating funds for our camper cabins. Can you help us?

Are you looking for a unique Christmas gift for someone special? Consider giving a gift that helps us get back to camp. Let us know when you donate and we will send you a personalizable gift certificate.

- \$2500 Furnish a Whole Cabin
- \$1000 Space heater (14 needed)
- \$500 Staff Mattress (4 Queen box springs mattresses needed)
- \$250 Build a Bunk (25 needed)
- \$125 Build a Half Bunk (8 needed)
- \$100 Bunk Mattresses (92 needed)
- \$75 Ladder (25 needed)
- \$50 Cabin Craft Kits (12 sets needed)
- \$25 Cabin Cleaning Supplies (12 sets needed)
- \$20 Siesta book (lots needed)



Tim Frantz, Blair Foster (president) from the Kinsmen Club presenting a \$60,000 cheque to Christina Whittmire, board chair, and Pat Mikalson, treasurer from Canyon Church Camp.

UCW DOWNTOWN DAY

All women of the congregation are most welcome!

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024

10 a.m. Meet at **BREAD MILK & HONEY** at 427 - 5th St. S. for coffee & treats.

→ Shop at your leisure exploring the shops in the area.

1 p.m. Meet at **STREATSIDE EATERY**

at 317 – 8th St. S. for lunch (*Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway at the church if you are coming for lunch*).

Questions? Joan - 403-328-4771 or Wanda - 403-382-8391

Southminster Chancel Choir Update



Thank you to **Leslie Dittmann** for stepping up to cover for our music director **Kade Hogg**, who is recovering from surgery.

Leslie has many years of experience as a choir director with several groups, and she will be rehearsing with the choir and the bell choir on Wednesdays and leading them every Sunday.

Kade would like to express his gratitude to both Leslie and Chris for the necessary adjustments they have made to keep the music at Southminster top notch.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS OF MY LIFE

David Taggart, a violist of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra emailed me in February, 2007: “My father Coyd Taggart sang bass in the Messiah concert in Tokyo in December 1945.” His father talked about it often when he was alive. He had been searching for an account of that concert until he found it on my website. Following is my blog he responded to:

Japan surrendered unconditionally in August, 1945. By then, Tokyo was almost totally destroyed by nightly bombing. My parents and children lived in the half-destroyed downtown church. My father was the pastor. We slept between mosquito-nets and the silk drapes which used to hang behind the organ. We were always hungry; had no change of clothes.

We saw the first American soldiers on September 2, heavily armed and looking extremely wary. Within a few weeks, they were no longer armed, acting like regular teenagers looking for fun in town. Some of them came to worship with us. A few were intelligence officers and some other Japanese Americans, both of whom knew and spoke Japanese. Despite the difficult living conditions, we were extremely happy; the war ended. Former enemies were worshipping together.

Winter came. We burned broken furniture for cooking and warmth. Christmas was coming. One of the American friends came in a Jeep and told us to hop in. “There is a Messiah Concert!” It was unbelievable. I still feel that icy wind on an open Jeep. The concert was at the *Tokyo University Auditorium*, the only one left still standing with a large seating capacity. Inside was warm with the body heat of people.



Choir and orchestra were a mixture of American and Japanese servicemen, some in tattered uniforms. Only the conductor and soloists were in proper concert attire. The conductor was a local Pentecostal minister well known for his writing of Gospel music. When the tenor soloist began, “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people” tears began to fill my eyes. Audience spontaneously joined in the singing of “Amen” chorus at the end. There was no dry eye in the auditorium.

It could not have been high quality performance. But it was the best Messiah ever; we had family, friends, and former enemies together to warm the cold winter night celebrating the Prince of Peace. We had no turkey dinner, no presents 2007, nor decent clothes, but we had peace. It was the best Christmas of my life.

Tad Mitsui

Fit for Life at Southminster – 10am Fridays!

Group Fitness Class for all fitness levels, ages and genders. *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

Recreational Pickleball for Southminster folks on Mondays at 4:15pm to 5:45pm
All equipment provided!

We are offering this court time for FREE! Come and try it out. It's fun!



How many people does it take to install a railing at Southminster?

This was a great team effort!

Russ Henderson purchased the oak, Vicki Hegedus' husband Stephen Deppisch used his woodworking tools to form the rounded ends, Taina Arnell stained and varnished the wood to match the existing paneling and Jason Stone and Russ Henderson attached the final product to the wall with brackets! A job well done!

The Rotary Carol Festival

has been a **celebration of Christmas music** presented by local choirs, both church and community.

*Archives Corner
by Trish Purkis*

The first festival of this kind was presented in 1946 and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lethbridge and held in the month of December at Southminster United Church.

One of the organizers, A.K. Putland, was a Southminster organist from 1943-1964. He was also an active member in the Rotary Club.

Church, community and later school choirs participated and there was a time in the 1980s when the number of choirs were so large, the Rotary held the event over two nights.

No tickets were sold but a silver collection was taken which went to some of the participants, but most of all to UNICEF.

The format for the festival included a Prelude and Postlude performed by the organist, audience singing favorite carols and the choirs' selections.

1996 was the fiftieth Anniversary of the carol festival and the Rotary Club reprised the two-night program for that occasion. **Carol leaders were Lottie Austin and George Evelyn, organist Joan Croskery.**

The Rotary Carol Festival was a staple program of the Christmas season for over sixty years. Due to the increase of other community musical endeavors throughout December, the Rotary Club decided to drop the popular program from their line-up.



Congregation and choir Rotary Carol Festival 1952

From Carol Romses and Joyce Boisvenue:

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the UCW Christmas Tea and Bazaar on November 23 such a success, and that includes pretty much everyone in the congregation.



Congregational Breakfast

Saturday Dec. 7, 2024 at 9 a.m.

All members of the congregation are invited to join for a hearty breakfast of Eggs Benedict.

Guest speaker is our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Tad Mitsui. He will share a spy story!

Sign-up sheet is on the bulleting board by the Lounge
Cost \$10 per person.

A special thank you to our
Christmas Angel
Mrs. Lorraine Elliott.

She passed away this September
at age 94. In her will,
she left Southminster a generous
gift of \$10,000.

This donation will help us
continue God's work in our
community. Merry Christmas!



“

May this season find you
among those you love,
sharing in the twin glories of
generosity and gratitude.”

OPRAH WINFREY



By Lori O'Leary, a
travelling treasurer

Not Withstanding my Canadian Patriotism, I think it is appropriate that American Thanksgiving should be celebrated at the very beginning of Advent. It can remind us that our gift giving is an expression of gratitude and appreciation for those people, events or organizations that have gifted us with support, joy and love in the past. In many cases, we are reminded that, in spite of occasionally feeling “sorry” for ourselves, there are many others that are dealing with their own set of concerns. Perhaps, our situation can be set aside for a few minutes in order to think of others – while we wait for the coming of Jesus -THE Child.

It is at this time of the year that the Stewardship Committee – along with Church Finance – take a look at how our current year cash flow is progressing. As shown on the included chart - *It Ain't Good – But it is Better than expected.* With 2 remaining months of transactions to report we still have **a current year deficit of nearly \$ 40 K.** *Is that OK with you?? If not, What can we do about it?*

Together – *You are Not Alone* – Together, we can make a difference.

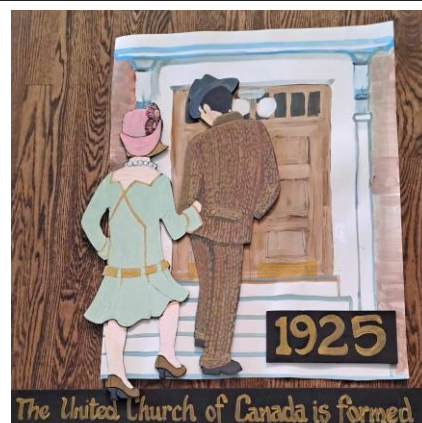
Stewardship is excited about the coming celebrations regarding the Centenary of the United Church in Canada. We came up with an idea which both addresses the deficit and Celebrates our past achievements while looking forward to what's next.

Our \$100 for 100 years Campaign

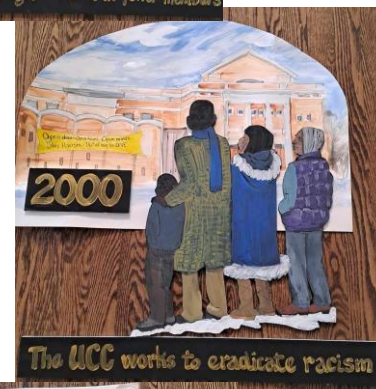
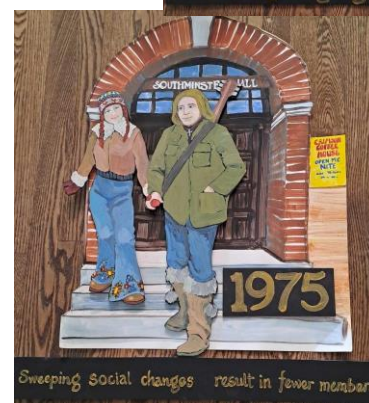
This campaign gives you the opportunity to show your appreciation - your gratitude - for how the United Church (*in general*) and Southminster (*in particular*) has positively contributed to your personal history and current spiritual commitment. What year were you – or your parents - baptised or married in the United Church? What year did you decide to start coming to Southminster? When were your children born, or your grandparents mourned? You can identify with a particular year – or not – and donate an extra \$ 100 in tribute to those people and those progressions that have come before you and affected who you are today.

We are “rolling out” our hundred years of history and are waiting to attach your dedicated celebration of any year of your choice to the “*Scroll of Generosity*”.

Thank you for your continued Support, Southminster – Our future history is in your Hearts.



100 years
artwork
was
lovingly
created by
Amy
Dodic!



Southminster Financials October 2024

2024		YTD	YTD	10	Budget	
<i>Southminster United Church Operating Income & Expense</i>	<i>31-Oct</i>	<i>Average per month</i>	<i>Average per day</i>	<i>2024 Budget</i>	<i>Budget per month</i>	<i>Budget Daily</i>
Congregational Collections	106,221	10,622	354	140,000	11,667	389
Designated Recoveries	14,860	1,486	50	23,500	1,958	65
Rentals & Other Income	122,480	12,248	408	165,900	13,825	461
Total Funds In	243,561	24,356	812	329,400	27,450	915
Staffing Costs	203,273	20,327	678	258,901	21,575	719
Operating Costs (Office etc)	35,361	3,536	118	54,960	4,580	153
Facility Upgrades	3,722	372	12	5,000	417	14
Building Upkeep	11,350	1,135	38	12,000	1,000	33
Utilities	24,643	2,464	82	40,000	3,333	111
Committees	4,995	500	17	14,700	1,225	41
Total Expenses	283,344	28,334	944	385,561	32,130	1,071
Current Net	(39,784)	(3,978)	(133)	(56,161)	(4,680)	(156)

Good News !! We are not that far off of our year to date goals set up for the 2024 Budget.

In fact, At this average we will in a better financial position for the current year than expected!!

Our Hoped for incoming funds is only \$ 100 short per day. And our expenses average \$ 127 less.

Bless You Southminster - For your continued Generosity !!



Waterton United Church welcomes you to their **Christmas Service** on Saturday, December 21 at 5pm. Worship leader is Rev. Eva Stanley. Potluck dinner to follow the service. Let there be snow!

United Church of Canada 2025

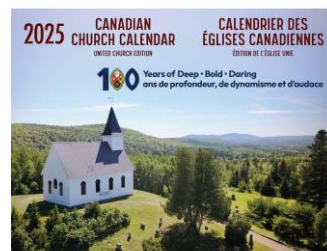
celebrating 100 years

Calendars

Make a great stocking
stuffer

Available now at the church
office

\$15 per Calendar



***Saturdays at Ten-Thirty (SATT) and Tuesday Book Club are taking
a winter break in the month of December.
They will be back in January 2025***

Hello from Church in Society,

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas season ahead, we think of those even more this time of year who are less fortunate than we are. We partner with Lethbridge Family Services each year and support the **Angel Tree**. This year we ask that you kindly have your Angel Tree gifts turned into the office **by Friday December 20th** at the latest so the appropriate time can be given to bundle and get those last minute gifts to those who need them. Please drop off new and unwrapped gifts to the office. If you can get your gifts in weekly, they can be picked up as soon as we have enough to warrant a pickup.

Our Mitten Tree is in the Narthex and ready for decorating! Please bring in any gloves, toques, mittens, scarves, socks and any warm outerwear to decorate it! We look forward to seeing its warmth shine in our community to those who need warmth this winter.

Corinne and I will co-host the **100 Women Who Care on Tuesday December 10th** in Southminster Hall. All women are invited to join this event in supporting and giving back to local non-profit organizations. Nominees are being collected as we speak and the 3 lucky candidates each speak on behalf of their organization and the 100 women that night decide on a winner! To date, as an organization, they have raised \$301,000 for 30 local charities! Amazing cause to get behind!

Thank you for the support you continually give to Church & Society and the work we choose to do for the community. May you be richly blessed with family, friends, happiness and health this holiday season!

Melanie Winters
Co-chair CIS



Christmas Message from our Pastoral Care Committee



Pastoral care has made the decision for the month of December that we will not be sending birthday cards due to the postal strike. So expect a call, text or maybe an email to celebrate your special day.

We met on the 29th of November to do Christmas cards. They will be mailed whenever the strike is over.

If you know of someone who you think would appreciate a card from the church, let us know and we will be happy to send one.

I want to welcome Ann Marie McDonald to Pastoral care, she has decided our committee will be a good fit for her and her Ministry at Southminster.

May you all find the joy, hope, peace and love of the season.

Your Pastoral Care Committee:

*Ann Marie McDonald
Joyce Boisvenue
Linda Horner
Sheila Braund
Pam Rockerbie
Janice Ross, Chair*

December 2024 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div>9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>10:30 am Worship</div> <div>2-4pm Sportball BD (UH)</div> <div>6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9-10am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>4:15-5:45pm Rec Pickleball (SMH)</div> <div>4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</div> <div>6-9pm Aurora Choral (S)</div> <div>6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)</div> <div>7pm Symphony (UH)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>3:30-5 Youth Pickleball II (SMH)</div> <div>4:30-6:45pm Sportball II (UH)</div> <div>5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch)</div> <div>7-9pm Rollerskating (SMH)</div> <div>7-9pm Vox Musica (S)</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8am-8pm ELVT (S, SMH, L, UH)</div> <div>6pm Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>7-9:30pm Choir Practice (Ch)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>8:30am-8pm St. Pat's School (S, BR, SMH)</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L)</div> <div>11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada</div> <div>4:30-7:30pm Sportball (UH)</div> <div>6:45-8:45 String Orchestra (Ch)</div>	<div>6</div> <div>10 am Fit for Life (SMH)</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>6:30-8:30pm Tanya Gail (UH)</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>9am Congregational Breakfast (SMH)</div> <div>11am-6pm Mayor's Concert Rehears. (S, L, K)</div> <div>12:30-5:30pm Symphony (SMH)</div> <div>3-5pm Sportball BD (UH)</div> <div>7pm Mayor's Concert (S, L, SMH)</div>
<div>8</div> <div>9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>10:30 am Worship</div> <div>4-9pm Candlelight Events (S, L)</div> <div>7pm Candlelight Concert (S, L)</div> <div>6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9-10am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>4:15-5:45pm Rec Pickleball (SMH)</div> <div>4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</div> <div>6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)</div> <div>7-9pm Aurora Choral (S)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>3:30-5pm Youth Pickleball (SMH)</div> <div>4:30-6:45pm Sportball II (UH)</div> <div>5-8pm 100 Women Who Care (SMH)</div> <div>5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch)</div> <div>7-9pm Vox Musica (S)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>3-9pm LCI Band Concert (S, L)</div> <div>6pm Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>5:30-7pm It's About Music (SMH)</div> <div>6:30pm Ethel (BR)</div> <div>7-9:30pm Choir Practice (Ch)</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L)</div> <div>11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada</div> <div>12:30-9:30pm GPMS event (S, SMH)</div> <div>7pm GPMS Concert (S, SMH)</div> <div>4:30-7:30pm Sportball (UH)</div> <div>6:45-8:45 String Orchestra (Ch)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10 am Fit for Life (SMH)</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>3-11pm Candlelight Events (S, L)</div> <div>5-10pm WTWTC (SMH)</div> <div>6pm, 8:15pm Candlelight Concerts</div>	<div>14</div> <div>UCW Downtown Day</div> <div>8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>11-2 Canyon Camp meet (L, K)</div> <div>12-6pm Sportball BD (UH)</div> <div>12:30-5:30pm Symphony (SMH)</div> <div>12:30-7pm Symphony (S)</div>
<div>15</div> <div>9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>10:30 am Worship</div> <div>1-5:30pm Symphony (SMH, S)</div> <div>3pm Concert</div> <div>6:30-9:30pm Little Passages (SMH)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9-10am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>4:15-5:45pm Rec Pickleball (SMH)</div> <div>4:30-7pm Sportball (UH)</div> <div>6:30-10pm Symphony Concert (SMH, S, L)</div> <div>7:30pm Concert</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>17</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>3:30-5pm Youth Pickleball (SMH)</div> <div>4:30-6:45pm Sportball II (UH)</div> <div>7pm It's About Music Concert (S)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6pm Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>7-9:30pm Choir Practice (S)</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10-11am Sportball (UH)</div> <div>10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L)</div> <div>11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada</div> <div>4:30-7:30pm Sportball II (UH)</div> <div>6:30-8:30 Tutti Corda Concert (Ch)</div> <div>12-10pm Roberts Academy Choir + concert set up (S)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8am-10pm Jenny Oaks Baker (S, L, UH)</div> <div>5-10pm WTWTC (SMH)</div>	<div>21</div> <div>10am-12pm Mommy Con. (UH)</div> <div>10am-2pm Tuba Xmas (S)</div> <div>11:30-12:30 Tuba Xmas (SMH)</div> <div>12:30-5:30pm Symphony (SMH)</div> <div>7pm Longest Night Service at St. Augustine's Anglican Church</div>
<div>22</div> <div>9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>10:30 am Worship</div> <div>5-10 pm Tanner (Ch)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>23</div> <div>7-9pm Aurora Choral (SMH)</div> <div></div> <div>for Advent</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6pm Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (S)</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10am Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>Merry Christmas</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Office Closed</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Office Closed</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Office Closed</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9:45-11:45am Lutherans (Ch)</div> <div>10:30 am Worship online</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Office Closed</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>NEW YEARS EVE</div>	<div>Office Closed</div> <div>December</div> <div>Southminster Hall (SMH)</div> <div>Sanctuary (S)</div> <div>Upper Hall (UH)</div> <div>Lounge (L)</div> <div>Wesley Room (W)</div> <div>Chapel (Ch)</div> <div>Board Room (BR)</div> <div>Kitchen (K)</div>			