

Southminster News

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors



January 2024

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9 am to 4 pm

January



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Find us on Facebook



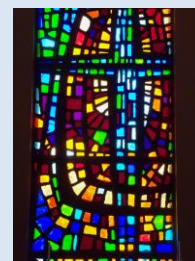
Sunday Worship Services

10:30 a.m.

In person or live stream on Facebook

Minister's Message:

This month we are having a tremendous celebration, on January 21st Southminster will officially become an Affirming ministry.



Our Affirming journey began in the fall of 2021, shortly after we had returned back to in-person worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fran Hiscocks spoke with me following worship on a Sunday, and asked how we might better tell others in Lethbridge of our church's inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. I responded that within the United Church, this is typically done by being designated an Affirming ministry by the national network, Affirm United. Fran wrote a letter to Church Council requesting that becoming an Affirming ministry be on the agenda at the next annual congregational meeting.

The Affirming process encouraged us to think about how we can offer a welcome that is Public, Intentional, and Explicit (PIE), of not only the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, but also inclusive of those with physical and mental disabilities. To go further than just welcoming people of every race and ethnicity, but to become an anti-racist church. To embrace people of different family compositions, different levels of physical and mental health, or different economic classes than ourselves, adopting all of these values officially with a congregational vote last spring.

Affirm United advises that the minister remain fairly hands off throughout the process, and that the process be driven by the lay members of the congregation. Therefore, I wish to offer thanks to the members of the Affirming Committee: Hilary Squires (chair), Gabrielle Dumont, Amy Dodic, and Sheila Hollihan, for their diligent work shepherding us through the official Affirming process.

Indeed, this will be a major milestone for Southminster, but in addition to being a church where people are welcomed no matter who they love, and welcomed to be exactly the way God has made them. We shall continue to remain a church where, first and foremost, we seek to know Christ, and to make Christ known.

Happy New Year to you and your families. May 2024 bring you prosperity, peace, and good health.

Rev. Taylor

Hello my friends:

A Note from Carol Many Chief:

When Jesus or Paul used the term beloved, it was a greeting that spoke far more and it is a greeting that I hope whispers in your heart. Your generosity has helped to establish a ministry and calling to which I hope to serve for many years. My six months has been so empowering as a guide to my boundaries, my limits, my strengths, and my hopes for the future.

Among this learning, I have been blessed to share, pastoral care and re-establishing my style of visitation, in the special care homes context and getting used to wearing a different hat, from Health Care Aid to Minister. I do have a lot of learning left on how to get all the work and expectations in, so organization and time management is always an ongoing thing for me. I am glad, though, because I know my chickens don't mind if I am a bit scattered at home, and the trick and truth is, I can manage that part of me. Besides some men (including my hubby) used to joke, that 2 ladies visiting is just like a couple of old hens..can you believe that we used to tolerate such poor jokes. Thank God for today.

So coming in to town is a switch to a different hat. as well. The visits and a great blessing of Rev. Taylor who has modeled and taught me so much. It is amazing the heart he has and he makes it all look easy, he is a blessing. I made a small joke to one lady who had to answer curious neighbours why she had not one- but two ministers, visit within days.

My 6 months also allowed me to deepen my comfort and I have been able to grow and explore worship and service beyond school scenarios. The opportunity to lead small group Bible study was challenging, and enlightening, as I recognized the Holy Spirit's voice and presence in the way the topic and local current events unfolded, unexpectedly, informing our discussions, and I wish many blessings to those who stuck with me. As Southminster has continued its path to affirming ministry the timing and discussion as well as observing the commitment and love behind our decision will help me tremendously as we all as the United Church of Canada, continue to work not only for our church but out in the world as well. Thank you.

As I start my new position I am so proud to carry with me the new relationships we have with the Anglican and ecumenical ladies ministerial group that is gathering from all southern AB. Some which you will be blessed to have carry on next year, as both Rev. Taylor and Rev. Gillian Breckenridge would like to continue the Longest Night as a shared event with St. Augustine's. I have had an easier time being introduced and learning the various faith communities in Lethbridge and southern AB which is a relief to bring into new ministry with Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge.

Lastly I am blessed to have Clinical Pastoral Education approved and set up to serve the Lethbridge Corrections Center for the next 2 years which would never have been possible except for your support. I know that the half time Minister calling at PSC, and the 2 day/week at LCC will be so fulfilling and just plain full that it will take a while, but I am so thankful to get to remain home in south AB and continue to be a neighbour. I am so blessed to have learned from all of you what that means and that God willin' and the creek don't rise, there are no boundaries on what that empowers us to do. Thank you

Standing Strong by cmc, (When did I write this? back when BSE was a thing, a few years ago)

Standing proud standing strong,
Overcoming all the wrongs
A community together friends and neighbors
Standing with one message
We'll work shoulder to shoulder
Working through our troubles and our labours

We have been through much worse and we have seen the best
History has proven that we can pass this test
If God wants us to stop and find a whole new path
We can grow into the future with strong roots in our past

BSE and dust, beetles and blight
Forces changing our vision, impairing our sight
With pillars of the community withholding the flood
We can count so much as our common life's blood,
For every endeavour from our farms to our towns,
There are always surprises and dangers around,
But just as the rainbow shimmers with new hope
We will find those new paths and better ways to cope

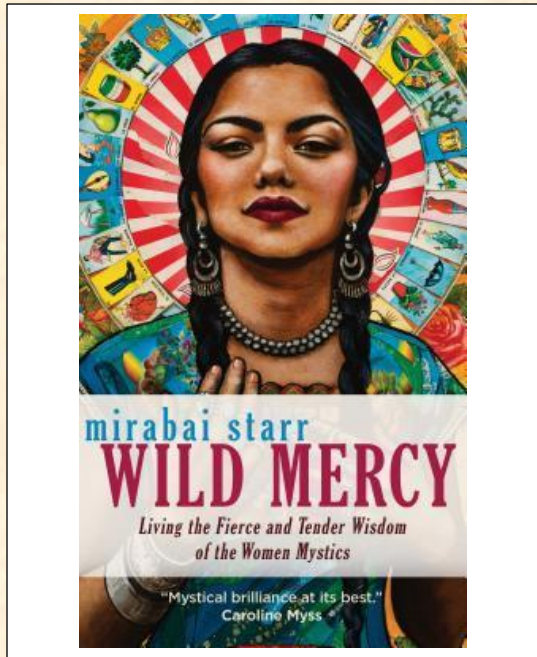
Many Blessings. Rev. Carol

Let's learn from past lessons, with both hearts and heads,
Co-operative sharing means giving more than just our bread,
Throughout the world from the dawn of life
It's been Creation's message, it's caused pain and strife,
Love your Creator, love your neighbors
Stand proud and stand strong; don't let your hope ever waver.

Standing proud standing strong
Overcoming all the wrongs
A community together friends and neighbors
Standing with one message
We' lol work shoulder to shoulder
Working through to the end, until our time of challenge is over.
Stand proud and stand strong.

Tuesday Book Club

The Tuesday Book Club meets in the Lounge on Tuesdays at 4pm. They are starting the new year on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 with a new book "Wild Mercy" by Mirabai Starr.



This readers group is open to everyone. They read 1-2 chapters a week, then get together on Tuesdays to discuss the material covered that week. Please read the introduction and Chapter 1 for Jan. 16.

For more information, please contact Carol Romses at romses@shaw.ca or (403) 327-1345

Men's Club Breakfast on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 9am Cost \$10 per person

All men of the congregation are welcome!



"Tad Talk"

January 20 at 10:30 am in the lounge will be a continuation of discussion about Death and Dying. We will discuss the rituals around the death of persons. Read the scriptures, **Matthew 8: 21 and 22, and Luke 9:** and the following verses. What are we to do with Funerals and other rituals in the context of changing observance around the death of persons? Many people request not to have services recently. Please read the above scriptures and think of the hymns you would want included at the funerals and other rituals and bring them with you. On this day, the independent book store "Analog" will bring some books for display for you to examine. Tad is writing a paper for preparation to help start the discussion. If you are on the email list, you should already have a copy. There are also some available in the Narthex and the office.

- Rev. Tad

A message from Carol Romses and Joyce Boisvenue:

When you are **putting away your Christmas decorations this year**, set aside a box for the things you would like to **donate for Christmas Tea and Bazaar 2024!** You can bring your box of decorations to the church office and we will store them for you until the Bazaar Time in November.

Your decorations will make the Christmas Surprises table nice and festive and find a new home at the sale!



Friday Fit for Life at Southminster at 9:30 to 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.



January classes will run on Fridays **January 12/19/26** and continue every week in February

Cost: by Donation (suggested \$5 per person, but pay what you can).



Affirming Committee Update:

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 10:30 am during the worship service we will officially become an Affirming Ministry. There will be a celebratory Coffee Hour to follow.

JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP
AS WE CELEBRATE BECOMING AN
.....
AFFIRMING
MINISTRY
.....

JANUARY 21 | Southminster United Church | 10:30 AM
1110 4 Ave S
Lethbridge, Alberta

Church Manses (Part 2)

by Trish Purkis, our church archivist

Further research into church annals, has discovered the existence of other church manses. We go back to the late 1880s to the first dwelling belonging to the Knox Presbyterian Church. This manse was located on 8th St. S and housed the McKillop family from 1888 until 1907.



The church manse for the Knox United Church was another example. It is interesting to note that the ministers of Knox United used the manse closest to them which was at 1210 4 Ave. South [see December article].



For the Wesley Ministers, they used the small dwelling directly north of the church where Southminster Hall & the parking lot is today. Unfortunately, there is not much history regarding this dwelling. As you can see by the image, it is sandwiched between Southminster and Trimbles Tire Company. The address was 320-11 Street South, and it was the abode for Reverends Cobbledick 1914; Cragg 1918; Pearson 1925 & McMinn until 1935. It was sold in the late 1930s, and the first owner was Christensen Brothers, Parley and M.E. who were Funeral Directors. They stayed at that location until 1946 when they moved across the alley to their own building at 327- 10 Street.

Another building that was purchased by the United Church was at 1106-5th Avenue South. It was one of four dwellings discussed in a meeting of the Board of Stewards in March 1951. The manse committee’s report indicated the house was in excellent repair with a garage and good grounds. Its location was one block from the church on 5th Avenue and next door to the east of the old Spudnut Shop. This small house was built in 1909, a two-storey abode with a hip roof style. There were four rooms on each floor plus living room, dining room, kitchen, and a full basement.



One of the last manses belonging to the church was a little further away than the others. The address was 526-26th Street South. This dwelling was used in the late 1950s and well into the 1960s. It had four bedrooms, the third bedroom had a fireplace and the fourth bedroom was in the basement. There were living and dining rooms, a kitchen, recreation room and a den, front, and back halls. There was a telephone table and chair in the hallway. The manse committee kept a record of replacement carpets, furniture, kitchen appliances and painting. Residents were Dr. Frame and family and Reverend O’Neil and family.

Members of the Manse Committee were Mrs. E.C. Millar, Mrs. George McKillop, Mrs. Ken Thompson, Mrs. C. Ott, and chairperson Margaret Sutherland.

The dwelling was sold in 1966 after renovations were completed.

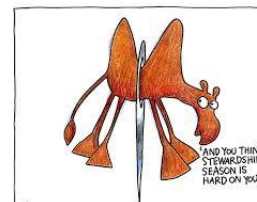


Dearest Southminster Folks, We have much to Celebrate as ONE Calendar is taken down from the Wall and is replaced by another . . . with small squares empty of commitments and concerns and open to New Ideas, New Hopes, New chances to fill in those spaces with plans for the future and reminders of reasons to celebrate – birthdays, anniversaries – even doctor appointments, as these too, remind us that we are alive and have the potential each new day brings to us.

Speaking of Calendars - Just one more Reason to Celebrate – Our “Colour the Calendar” Stewardship Campaign was very successful, bringing over \$ 7,200 in needed funds to our “General Earnings and Expenses” for 2023.

With those funds, and the Extraordinary benefit of \$ 20,000 loan forgiveness from our time of Covid, we have managed to break even for the Current 2023 year end. A bit more analysis needs to happen before we can release a final Financial report, but we are very happy with the preliminary results.

We do have a very tough year ahead of us as we plan our upcoming budget. Many necessary expenses have gone up considerably and – sadly – there are not as many of us members remaining to help cover those costs. Your Stewardship committee is meeting to address the issues that we see ahead of us. We hope to come up with some innovative ideas and ways to keep our funds coming in so our heat can remain on through the coldest months of the year – and the air conditioner for our anticipated hotter than usual summer.

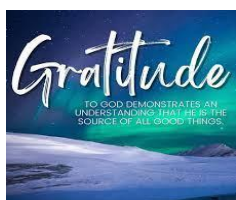


Perhaps, now is the time for each of you – Members of our Southminster Family – to make some plans for the coming months in your own Spiritual Life Journey – through our doors and beyond. Many of you have already signed up for Pre-Authorized donations. These can be set up – or changed - at any time through the ladies in the office. One thing to note, however, is that these banking instructions result in “first of the month” transactions. We are now taking direct deposit donations through the “Canada Helps” application on our updated website. Debit & Credit cards can be used at the office (credit cards by phone) for special occasions. And, Of Course, numbered envelopes are available for your weekly donations of cash or cheques which can be placed in our collection plates on Sunday mornings. If you do not have a set of envelopes – but would like one – please just stop by the office to receive yours – along with a big Smile.

Thank You for your continued Support of you Own Worship Community.

*Without “You” – There would be no “We”
Hope, Faith, Love, Live*

*By Lori O’Leary,
treasurer*



Bless You One and All - Each and Every “New” Day.

November 2023 Financial Figures

2023	PRELIMINARY	YTD	YTD	52	Budget	
<i>Southminster United Church</i>	<i>31-Dec</i>	<i>Average per week</i>	<i>Average per day</i>	<i>2023 Budget</i>	<i>Budget per week</i>	<i>Budget Daily</i>
Congregational Collections	136,578	2,626	375	162,500	3,125	446
Designated Recoveries	24,721	475	68	24,100	463	66
Rentals & Other Income	157,828	3,035	434	165,000	3,173	453
Total Funds In	319,126	6,137	877	351,600	6,762	966
Staffing Costs	227,556	4,376	625	228,413	4,393	628
Operating Costs (Office etc)	45,944	884	126	46,270	890	127
Facility Upgrades	13,086	252	36	12,000	231	33
Building Upkeep	8,087	156	22	20,000	385	55
Utilities	34,545	664	95	40,000	769	110
Committees	6,763	130	19	18,625	358	51
Total Expenses	335,980	6,461	923	365,308	7,025	1,004
Current Net	(16,854)	(324)	(46)	(13,708)	(264)	(38)
Note: Extraordinary Revenue -						
RE Covid Loan Forgiveness	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000		
Net Current Year Change in Equity	\$ 3,146			\$ 6,292		

Colour the Calendar Challenge



We did it! The Stewardship Committee’s “Colour the Calendar” campaign was a resounding success! Our Southminster family rose to the challenge and covered all of the days in December. You are amazing!!! Thank you!!!

Mark your calendar!

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be on **Sunday, March 3, 2024** following worship. Committee chairs, please submit your reports to the office.



Happy New Year from **Church in Society**! You made all of our wishes come true in 2023 with your generosity towards the Lethbridge Food Bank, Angel Tree, Mitten Tree and church family! Our year was successful because of your willingness to help in community in our city.

Thanks to Sheila Braund for being the delivering elf in December for organizations with at risk clients who needed all of the warm mitts, toques, gloves, scarves and Mitten Tree items. We pray for Wendy Gillett who year after year did this job humbly and is recovering from surgery.

Lethbridge Family Services is wowed every year by the donations we collect at SUCH and our willingness to speak to the congregation about the work they do. This year they bundled gifts for over 4000 children in our city. WOW! Jada and I had the privilege just a few days before Christmas to deliver to a family that was receiving Angel Tree gifts as well as pick up and drop off gifts that were donated all over the city back to Lethbridge Family Services so they could continue bundling those last-minute calls that were coming in until two days before Christmas. What a privilege it is to serve!

If you are interested in becoming one of our members to help with our committee in 2024, please contact Corinne Steele or myself as we would love to have you join us in these initiatives.

Wishing you all good health and New Years wishes as we kick off another great year in CIS.

Melanie Winters
Co-Chair Church in Society

