




# Southminster News

Open Hearts  
Open Minds  
Open Doors

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Find us on Facebook 

## May 2023

*Office Hours*

**Monday to Friday**  
*9 am to 4 pm*



## Sunday Worship Services

### 10:30 a.m.

*In-person or live stream on Facebook*

## Minister's Message:

***Spring has sprung.***

As a result, it is that time of year: next week, I will be away for the Annual General Meeting of Chinook Winds Regional Council of which Southminster belongs.

Chinook Winds is made up of all the United Churches in southern Alberta, south of hi-way 13. All of the clergy, as well as lay delegates from every congregation, join together for four days of decision making, worship, workshops, and fellowship. This year we are meeting at Fifth-Avenue Memorial United Church in Medicine Hat.

For the second year in a row, I will be serving as the chair of the business committee, which manages the agenda and handles the decision-making portions of the meeting. Many people think I must have something wrong with my brain to actually enjoy doing that, but I get great satisfaction from a well-run meeting and try to make the four 10-hour days of meetings as painless as possible.

I will not be returning to chair the business committee next year. I have been named the chair of the planning committee for the 45th General Council meeting in Calgary in 2025, the centennial year of The United Church of Canada. I guess that's what happens when you do a good job.

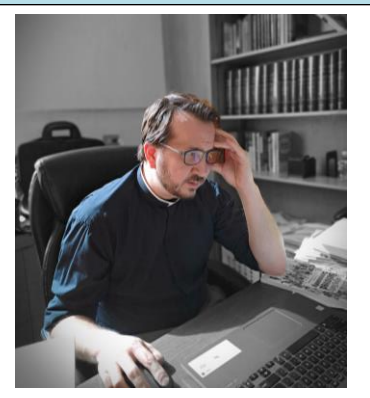
However, I will remain as a member of the Chinook Winds Executive Committee. The executive sets the policy directives for the Regional Council, and the Executive Minister and staff execute those directives. The executive meets four times a year, either on Zoom or at the Regional Council Office in Okotoks.

Of course, the big news at Southminster has been last week's congregational meeting on affirming ministry.

Last year at the annual congregational meeting, the congregation of Southminster received a letter from one of our members asking us to consider exploring the possibility of our church becoming an affirming ministry of The United Church of Canada. To express publicly, intentionally, and explicitly our welcome of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression.

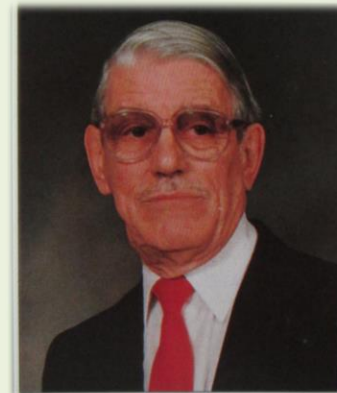
For the past 14 months we have engaged in a directed program as prescribed by Affirm United, the national network which provides the affirming designation to ministries of the United Church. We have considered our welcome of other marginalized groups, considering race, class, family composition, and physical and mental ability and health.

*Cont. on page 2....*



*Trish Purkis entertains us with tidbits from the archives in her monthly Archives Corner!*

## George Rogers



On the wall between the windows in the boardroom is a framed picture of the church with an insert of George Rogers. George was a member of Southminster United Church for over 60 years and during those years he wore many hats.

- ❖ He was a caretaker for the church.
- ❖ He held the door open on Sunday mornings and greeted people as they came to church.
- ❖ He closed the windows and locked the doors after events held in the church.
- ❖ He was a storyteller relating many memories and recollections of events that occurred within Southminster.
- ❖ He was familiar with every nook and cranny of the building.
- ❖ He was a member of the Men's Club in the 1970s and was on their publicity and PR Committees.
- ❖ He led the singalongs before each meeting and was on the executive for many years.
- ❖ George loved music and he was a member of the choir from 1943 to 1968. The music director A. K. Putland was his stepfather.
- ❖ He enjoyed coffee time every morning in the kitchen.
- ❖ He is remembered as a kind soul who loved his church and the people in it, and the contentment he felt to be needed.
- ❖ He passed away in 2009.

*By Trish Purkis*

*... cont. from front page:*

On April 23rd, at a special congregational meeting, the Church Council presented the final report of the Affirming Taskforce, including an affirming statement, an affirming action plan, and an equal marriage policy. A motion, that Southminster United Church submit an application with Affirm United to become an affirming ministry of The United Church of Canada, was adopted.

When we have received this approval, we will hold a celebration to declare that Southminster is a two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual affirming congregation.

On May 21, the Sunday of the May long-weekend, we will have the final session of the Building God's Beloved Community book study. I want to thank everyone who has participated in this over the past year. Proposing and then editing the book was a giant 4-year undertaking. I am so glad that I could share this first time through the book with all of you. As God wills it, it should serve as a tremendous resource to those seeking confirmation and new membership within the United Church for years to come.

Speaking of, at the end of May on Pentecost Sunday, Southminster will be having a new members Sunday. A wonderful celebration for those who have decided to officially make Southminster their spiritual home. To celebrate this day fully, we will be serving ice cream and inviting food trucks into the north parking lot for a picnic following worship. I hope to see many of you there.

Our church is so richly blessed by each person who contributes to make it the special place that it is.

- *Rev. Taylor*

**Tuesday's Tea at Two on May 16 at 2 pm**

Isn't there something calming and classy about a cup of tea? **Afternoon tea** is a long-standing tradition around the world. The first historic tea-drinking references date back to 2737 BC, when Chinese Emperor Shen Nung was recorded sipping boiled drinking water into which a tea leaf had floated. Prized by royalty and commoners alike, tea even has many health benefits! Did you ever hear someone's doctor tell them to limit their tea-drinking to a cup a day?

Two Southminster ladies, *Linda and Ann Marie*, came up with the idea of sharing their love of tea, and serving a cuppa in the Lounge! No cost, just come, sit and sip... treat yourself to an unhurried afternoon.

Maybe you have a favourite teacup? You can bring it with you - the tea will be brewed by the hostesses. Special teacups often come with family history or other stories! On our **first Tea at Two**, Linda has promised to bring a cup that she has treasured for decades - and share its story.

Everyone is invited to come, relax and enjoy some tea and treats on **Tuesday, May 16 at 2pm.**



**Rev. Tad's Bible Study, on Saturday, May 20 at 10:30 am in the Lounge**

We will discuss "**Fear**". After Easter, Disciples locked themselves on a room in fear of "the Jews", those who crucified their teacher Jesus, might come after them.

And yet, in a few weeks, they became trans-formed into a brave band of preachers who started the Christian Church. What is fear? What can change it into courage?



**Church in Society is excited for the second annual Food Truck event on Pentecost Sunday, May 28**

It will begin immediately after the church service, and will replace coffee hour that day. We will enjoy community on the north side of Southminster in the parking lot between the church and Two Guys & a Pizza Place. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship!

**Hope to see you there!**

Melanie Winters  
Co-chair, CIS



**Upcoming Southminster Events in May**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 13 | Men's Club Breakfast                            |
| May 16 | Tea at Two in the Lounge                        |
| May 20 | Tad's Bible Study                               |
| May 28 | Pentecost, New members Sunday with Food Trucks! |

**A message from Nancy Panting, Blankets for Canada:**



*Do you have any leftover yarn that you would like to donate to Blankets for Canada? We have a great need for wool right now; we can use any colour, and any size of balls of yarn. You can drop your donations off at the church office at your convenience. Thank you!*

## Canyon Church Camp

**We are back and planning to start construction this summer!** First on our list is the wastewater treatment system, re-establishing the other utilities, and upgrading the plumbing and electrical in the current buildings. These are big jobs with big price tags! Our fundraising team is busy applying for grants and planning fundraisers. How can you help? We still need board members as well as members for the rebuild committee who are familiar with construction. We have a project manager, but others with knowledge would be very helpful! We are also compiling a list of volunteers that are interested in pitching in on site when needed.

If you are feeling called to help us out, please let us know by email at [campcanyon@gmail.com](mailto:campcanyon@gmail.com) or contact one of the Southminster representatives on the board of directors (Christina Whittmire, Susan Rabchak, and Wendy Weerstra). Financial donations are greatly appreciated and can be made by cash, cheque, or e-transfer ([campcanyon@gmail.com](mailto:campcanyon@gmail.com)) as well as on [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). **Our first fundraising event will be held at Waterton United Church on May 20, 2023 from noon-8:30pm.** There will be activities for all, concept drawings of the new camp buildings, the board of directors will be there to ask questions and there is chili for supper. We would love to see you there!

**Christina Whittmire**  
[whittmirefamily@gmail.com](mailto:whittmirefamily@gmail.com)

Let's Get  
Back  
to  
Camp  
Canyon

12:00 - 8:30 PM | Waterton Park United Church | MAY 20  
 108 Clematis Ave

Please gather with us to celebrate our 21 year License of Occupation and rebuilding of camp after the Kenow Wildfire!

Come experience a variety of camp activities such as games, crafts, nature, drama, imaginary campfire sing along, & vespers, along with a utensil supper (tickets required).

Camp store & rebuild information will be available throughout the afternoon and evening.

The event is free, donations gratefully accepted.

Keep an eye out for more details and registration information.



Camp images from before the fire



### Friday Fit for Life at Southminster

New at Southminster: Friday mornings at 9:30 am to 10:15 am. *Circuit Training Group Fitness Class* for all fitness levels, ages and genders.

We will have a rotation of instructors, with Victoria every other week and different guest instructors every other Friday. Wear comfortable clothes. **Cost: by Donation** (suggested \$5 per person, pay what you can).



### Comments from Fit for Life participants:

*The first Southminster exercise class was held on Friday morning, April 14 in the gym. Seven courageous women huffed and puffed their way around the circuit smiling the whole time. Victoria was a very enthusiastic instructor and helped us with meeting our needs by modifying exercises as needed. At great time was had by all. There is room for more participants so come and join us.*

-Wanda & Joyce

**Holy Ship!**



**Southminster's 2023 Dragonboat Team meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at 7pm in the Lounge.**  
 We will get together for festival information, decide on team shirts and watch the safety video.

**There is still room for you on Southminster's boat!**  
 Are you available to paddle during the Lethbridge Dragonboat festival weekend of June 24 & 25, 2023 and 2 – 4 practice sessions in May & June?

If yes, then Join Us!

Contact Lori: [Hollyship22@gmail.com](mailto:Hollyship22@gmail.com)  
 or 403-393-1153

**Total beginners and old dragons both welcome!**

A message from our Treasurer Lori O'Leary:

A huge thank you for everyone's continuing support - in coming to the dinner and making regular contributions to our ongoing needs. Special thank you to those who tune in online and contribute through electronic means.

April financial figures will appear in the June Newsletter.



Celebrating Southminster's 110 years

Thank you to *Trish Purkis* for creating the historic 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary display for our **Dinner on the Danube** evening on April 21.

145 guests enjoyed a wonderful meal catered by the Lethbridge College Culinary Arts program, music by *Rudy Yasenik, Kade Hogg and The Decadent Phase!*

Thank you to *Steve Dobay* for spearheading this event, the many door prize donors, and the wonderful volunteers who made the dinner possible!

**Great Spring concerts at Southminster in May:**

Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

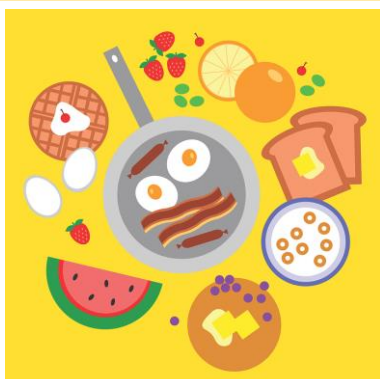
**Caritas Chamber Choir** presents: Spring Concert  
 Special guests Norbert Boehm, Mark Rodgers, Leo Brooks  
 director Frank Gndt  
 Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 seniors/students at the door

Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.

**Vox Musica** presents "Earthsongs"  
 featuring Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo  
 with Tutti Corda, director Gabe Kastelic  
 tickets \$25 at Casa or at the door

Monday May 8 at 7:30 p.m.

**Lethbridge symphony** presents:  
**BRILLIANCE OF THE BARD**  
 Works include the modern Romeo and Juliet from West Side Story, Kiss Me Kate, a musical version of "Taming of the Shrew", and many more based on Othello, King Lear, Henry V, and Hamlet.  
 Tickets starting at \$35



**Men's Club Breakfast on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.**

Brian O'Leary will be cooking a hearty breakfast for the Mens' club, please sign up in the hallway so we can prepare enough food for all.

Cost is still \$5

Please consider signing up for food prep or clean up as well.  
*(Guest speaker to be announced later.)*